ATONEMENT ARC
4
Higurashi
WHEN THEY CRY
STORY BY
RYUKISHI07
ART BY
KARIN SUZURAGI

Higurashi
WHEN THEY CRY
ATONEMENT ARC

Higurashi
WHEN THEY CRY
ATONEMENT ARC

4

CONTENTS

12 THE LAST MOVE 3

13 SEIGE 61

14 TIME LIMIT 103

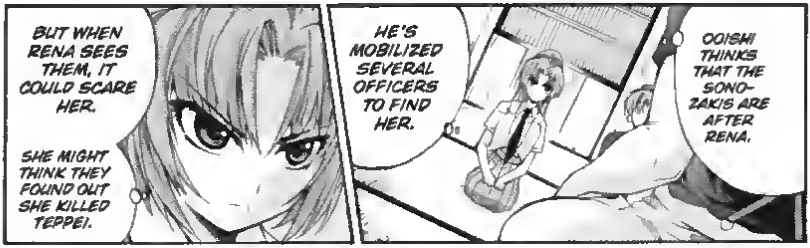
15 LESS THAN 10 MINUTES 149

FINAL CHAPTER: HAPPY RENA 191

I CALLED THIS MEETING TODAY...
...HOPING TO RESOLVE THE MISUNDER-STANDING...
SIGH: SAIMI/SUTE!
...BETWEEN THE POLICE AND THE SONOZAKI FAMILY.
I, MION SONOZAKI, ACTING HEAD OF THE SONOZAKI FAMILY...
...WILL EXPLAIN THE RENA RYUGU SITUATION.

CHAPTER 12: THE LAST MOVE

...IN REGARDS TO REINA RYUGU?
YOU SAY THAT WE'VE MADE A MISTAKE ...


BUT WHEN RENA SEES THEM, IT COULD SCARE HER.
SHE MIGHT THINK THEY FOUND OUT SHE KILLED TEPPEI.
HE'S MOBILIZED SEVERAL OFFICERS TO FIND HER.
OOISHI THINKS THAT THE SONO-ZAKI'S ARE AFTER RENA.

IF I DON'T STOP THEM...
...THEY'LL PUSH RENA EVEN CLOSER TO THE EDGE.

...TRIED TO CONTACT RENA RYUGU REGARDING A PERSONAL MATTER.
HE IS MOST CERTAINLY NOT APPROACHING HER WITH ANY ILL INTENT ON BEHALF OF THE SONOZAKI GROUP.
THIS ALL STARTED WHEN KASAI ...
PIKU (TWITCH)
REINA RYUGU LEARNED A SERIOUS SONOZAKI FAMILY SECRET.
WE ALREADY KNOW EVERY-THING.
NN FU FU.
LITTLE MISS SONOZAKI, YOU'RE ASKING A BIT TOO MUCH IF YOU EXPECT US TO BELIEVE THAT.
SO YOU'RE GOING AFTER RYUGU-SAN...
...TO SHUT HER UP, ISN'T THAT RIGHT?

...MIYO TAKANO'S SCRAPBOOK... CORRECT?
SO TALKING ISN'T GOING TO GET ME ANYWHERE AFTER ALL
THE SECRET THAT RENA RYUGU LEARNED... YOU MEAN ...
THEN I HAVE NO CHOICE BUT TO USE MY TRUMP CARD
ZAWA CALLIGRAPHY
ザワ...
THE BIOTERRORIST PLOT TO CREATE A PLAGUE OF LETHAL PARASITES IN HINAMIZAWA.
...YES. THE SONOZAKI CONSPIRACY.
I'M SURPRISED THAT YOU WOULD BRING IT UP YOURSELF.

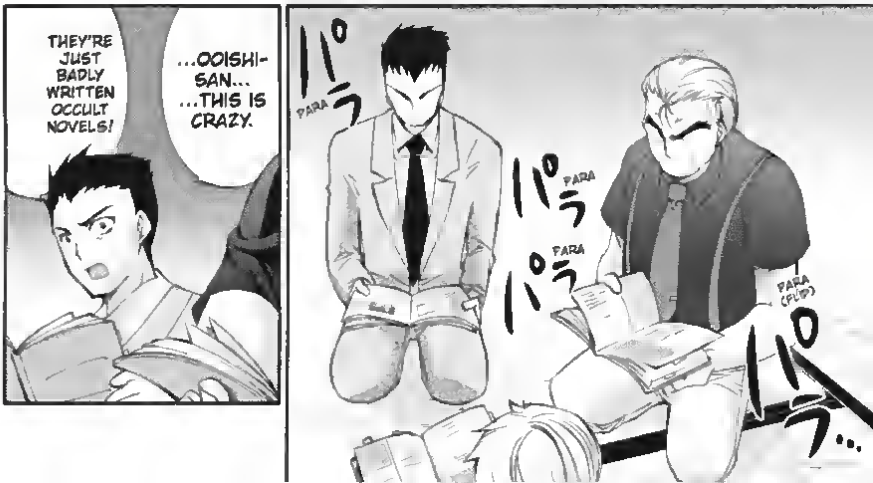
MIYO TAKANO PIECED TOGETHER YOUR PLOT IN HER SCRAP-BOOK.
THAT BOOK IS NOW IN REINA RYUGU'S POSSESSION.
THAT'S WHY THE SONOZAKI FAMILY IS LOOKING TO KILL HER.
WE'VE ALREADY ORDERED A LARGE-SCALE SEARCH OF YOUR TERRI-TORY.
I LOOK FORWARD TO SEEING WHAT KIND OF INCRIMI-NATING EVIDENCE WE FIND...
FUU (PONT)
BUT YOU'RE TOO LATE.
SU (GRIP) ...
?
IT'S ALL OVER FOR YOU.

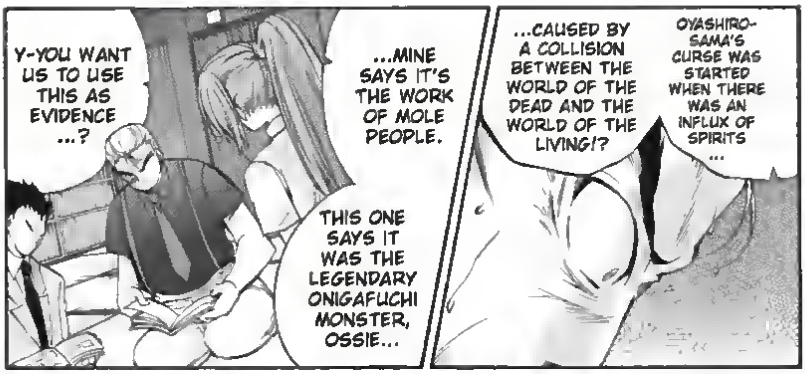
THESE ARE THE MIYO TAKANO SCRAP-BOOKS ...
...THAT WE HAVE OBTAINED OUR-SELVES.

AND THEN ...
PLEASE, TAKE A LOOK AT THEM.
OTHER SCRAP-BOOKS... THERE ARE MORE...?
!!

...LATER TONIGHT, WE'LL ALL LAUGH OVER DRINKS...
...ABOUT THE "SECRETS OF HINAMIZAWA" WRITTEN INSIDE THEM.

カナカナカナ
KANA (CHIRP)
KANA
KANA

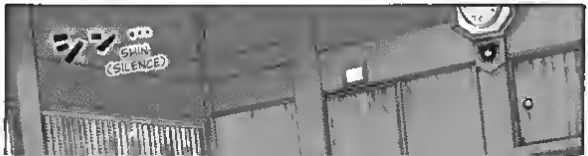

THEY'RE JUST BADLY WRITTEN OCCULT NOVELS!
...OOISHI-SAN... ...THIS IS CRAZY.
パラ
PARA
パラ
PARA
パラ
PARA
PARA (FLIP)
パラ...


Y-YOU WANT US TO USE THIS AS EVIDENCE ...?
...MINE SAYS IT'S THE WORK OF MOLE PEOPLE.
THIS ONE SAYS IT WAS THE LEGENDARY ONIGAFUCHI MONSTER, OSSIE...
...CAUSED BY A COLLISION BETWEEN THE WORLD OF THE DEAD AND THE WORLD OF THE LIVING!?
OYASHIRO-SAMA'S CURSE WAS STARTED WHEN THERE WAS AN INFLUX OF SPIRITS ...

...IS WRITTEN IN THE SCRAPBOOK RENA RYUGU HAS.
...THE ONE ABOUT THE PARASITES...
I EXPECT THE THEORY WE'RE ALL SO FAMILIAR WITH...

...KH...
...THE PARASITE THEORY AND THE TERRORIST PLOT...
IT'S ALL JUST A CRAZY MADE-UP STORY...?

...IT'S THE SAME AS THESE ...
SO...


シン
SHIN (SILENCE)

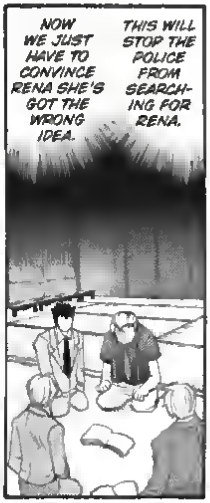
...
OOISHI-SAN, WE JUST LOST OUR ADVANTAGE.
...WE WERE PLAYED BY MIYO TAKANO.
IF WE CONDUCT A SEARCH, WE'LL BE THE ONES WITH EGG ON OUR FACE!
B-BUT... THEN, WHY ...?
GU-GOLENGOO

...KILL MIYO TAKA-NO!!?
WHY DID YOU...
DAN!

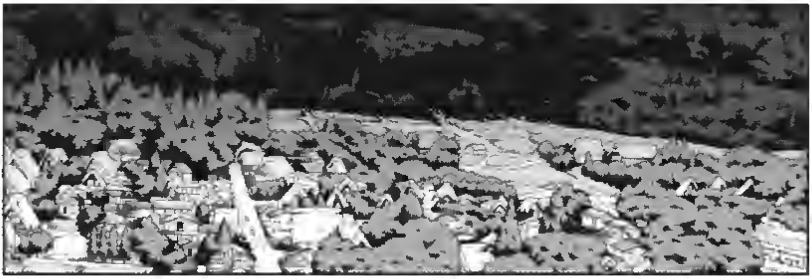
...BECAUSE THEY DIS-COVERED YOUR DAN-GEROUS SECRET!
YOU KILLED MIYO TAKANO AND JIROU TOMITAKE ...

...IF THE SONOZAKI FAMILY HAD BEEN INVOLVED ...
OUR FAMILY HAD NO HAND ...
...IN THE DEATHS OF EITHER MIYO TAKANO OR JIROU TOMITAKE.
...DO YOU THINK YOU WOULD HAVE FOUND THE BODIES?

...WE'RE WORRIED ABOUT YOU.
RENA... KEI-CHAN AND I AND ALL THE OTHERS...


NOW WE JUST HAVE TO CONVINCE RENA SHE'S GOT THE WRONG IDEA.
THIS WILL STOP THE POLICE FROM SEARCHING FOR RENA.

WHERE
...
...ARE
YOU...?



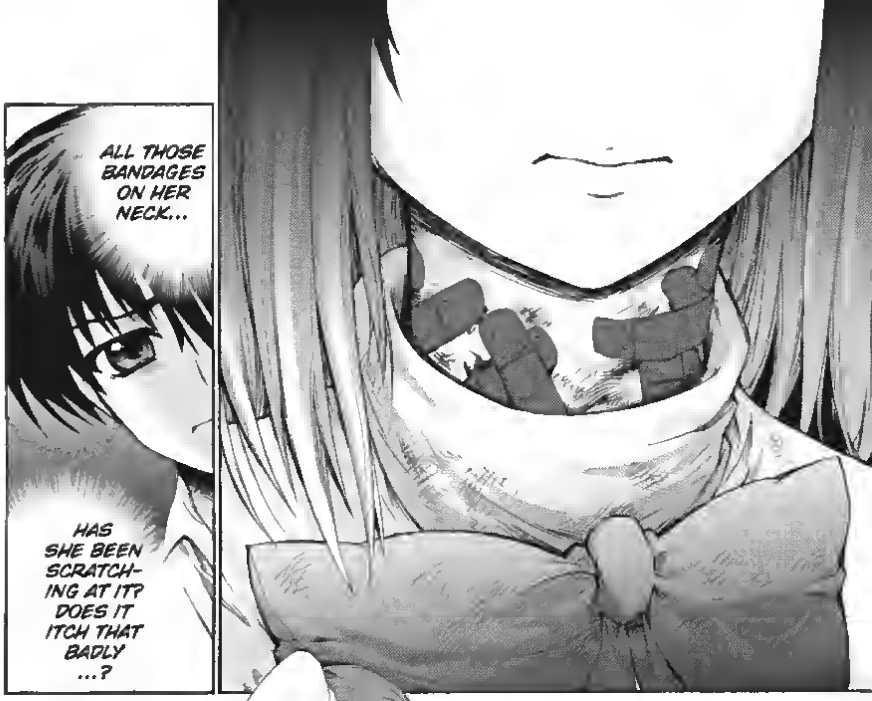
I STILL CAN'T BELIEVE...
...THESE MEMORIES I HAVE OF HINAMI-ZAWA.

WE HAVEN'T FOUND RENA YET...
Rena (Cry)
Ah...

IN THIS VERY ROOM...
...I KILLED RENA AND MION...
...THEN RENA SEES EVERYTHING AROUND HER AS HER ENEMY.
IF RENA IS IN THE SAME SITUATION NOW THAT I WAS IN THEN...
SHE MIGHT SUCCUMB TO THE FEAR AND HURT SOME-ONE...

RENA
...!!

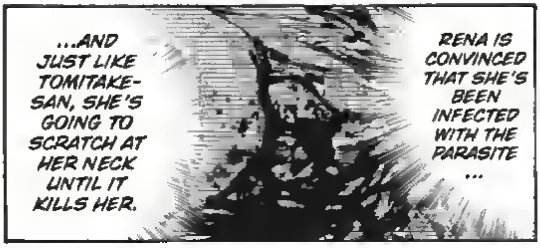
RENA... YOU...
HOW LONG HAVE YOU BEEN HERE...?
I DON'T KNOW...
I THINK SINCE A LITTLE AFTER DUSK...
THAT LONG? WHY...
!!
は、
HA (GASP)


ALL THOSE BANDAGES ON HER NECK...
HAS SHE BEEN SCRATCHING AT IT? DOES IT ITCH THAT BADLY...?

...IT... IT'S OVER FOR ME...
...AT THIS VERY MOMENT, THE MAGGOTS...
GU (CLENCH)
7"...
...ARE SQUIRMING THROUGH MY WHOLE BODY...
...IT ITCHES... IT ITCHES...

RENA! YOU'RE SICK!
STAY AT MY HOUSE AND REST, AND TOMORROW WE'LL GO SEE IRIESENSE!!!
NO. ...IT'S TOO LATE...
I'M GOING TO END UP LIKE TOMITAKE-SAN.
ZA (SHFF)
7"...

I DON'T ...
...HAVE MUCH LONGER...


...AND JUST LIKE TOMITAKE-SAN, SHE'S GOING TO SCRATCH AT HER NECK UNTIL IT KILLS HER.
RENA IS CONVINCED THAT SHE'S BEEN INFECTED WITH THE PARASITE ...

RENA ...

...SHE'LL BE PUSHED EVEN FURTHER.
IT'S JUST A DELUSION ...
...BUT IF I KEEP INSISTING SHE'S WRONG...

JUST LIKE I WAS...
...AND SO, BEFORE I DIE...
...I JUST HAD TO APOLO-GIZE TO YOU, KEIICHI-KUN.
APOLO-GIZE?
FOR WHAT...?
I SAID SOMETHING TERRIBLE TO YOU YESTERDAY.
...AND I HURT YOU...

YOU ARE NOT MY FRIEND!!
I BEAT PEOPLE WITH A METAL BAT AND SPLIT THEIR HEADS OPEN.
THEY WERE ALL HURT VERY BADLY.
SHOOTING GIRLS WITH A TOY GUN IS NOTHING COMPARED TO WHAT I DID.
YOU KNOW BEFORE I MOVED HERE...
.....
..I WAS DOING VERY BAD THINGS TOO LOTS OF BAD THINGS.
...I'M MUCH, MUCH, MUCH WORSE THAN YOU...
...I DIDN'T HAVE ANY RIGHT AT ALL...
...TO SAY YOU WEREN'T MY FRIEND...
RENA...

WAS SHE WAITING HERE ALL THIS TIME TO APOLOGIZE FOR THAT ...?
WHEN SHE'S SUFFERING SO MUCH ...?

...?
...DID A BAD THING TO YOU TOO...
BESIDES, I...
...YOU DON'T NEED TO APOLOGIZE FOR THAT...

...!
...I WAS AFRAID.
ME TOO... AT FIRST ...
...AFTER I HEARD ABOUT YOUR PAST...

...WELL, OF COURSE YOU'D BE AFRAID OF ME...
O-OH... SO YOU KNEW...

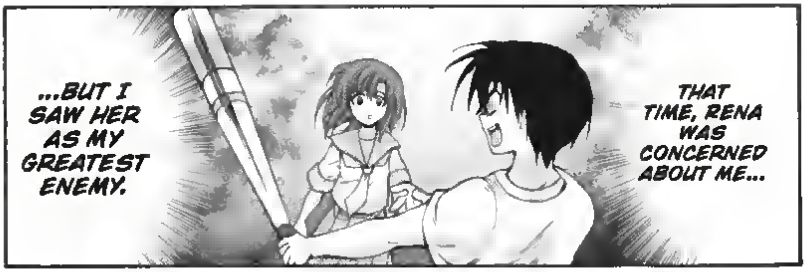
...WAS WRONG.
BUT THAT...

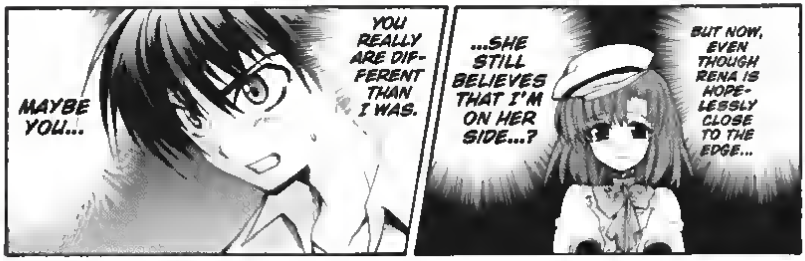
IT DOESN'T MATTER WHAT YOUR LIFE WAS LIKE IN IBARAKI!
MION, SATOKO, AND RIKA-CHAN TAUGHT ME...
EH ...?

...IT MAKES NO DIFFERENCE TO ME!!
SO WHATEVER "REINA RYUGU" WAS LIKE...
GU (CLENCH)
WHAT'S IMPORTANT IS THE RENA RYUGU IN HINAMIZAWA!
...AND FOREVER WILL BE...
SO... RENA RYUGU ALWAYS WAS, IS NOW...
KEIICHI-KUN...
K...
...THE BEST FRIEND...
...I'LL EVER HAVE!

THANK YOU...
KEIICHI-KUN...
ぎゅ..
THANK YOU...
...TRUST ANYONE ANYMORE...
I CAN'T...

I DON'T KNOW WHO'S TRYING TO DO TERRIBLE THINGS TO HINAMI-ZAWA...
I DON'T KNOW WHO'S TRYING TO KILL ME.
I DOUBTED YOU ONCE, BUT I WAS WRONG.
BUT YOU'RE DIFFERENT, KEIICHI-KUN.
...AND MY WHOLE BODY START'S TO ITCH AND ITCH...
WHEN I THINK ABOUT IT, MY HEAD STARTS SPINNING ...
GIRI (SQUEEZE)
RENA ...
RENA ...!!
!!
I CAN ...
...TRUST YOU, KEIICHI-KUN.


...BUT I SAW HER AS MY GREATEST ENEMY.
THAT TIME, RENA WAS CONCERNED ABOUT ME...


MAYBE YOU...
YOU REALLY ARE DIFFERENT THAN I WAS.
...SHE STILL BELIEVES THAT I'M ON HER SIDE...?
BUT NOW, EVEN THOUGH RENA IS HOPELESSLY CLOSE TO THE EDGE...

AND THEN MAYBE YOU'LL GO BACK TO BEING THE OLD RENA...!
...WILL HEAR MY VOICE. MAYBE ALL OF OUR VOICES WILL GET THROUGH TO YOU.

RENA! COME WITH ME!
IF YOU CAN'T TRUST ANYONE, THEN I'LL HIDE YOU!!
PLEASE! YOU'VE GOTTA BE TIRED FROM ALL THAT CAMPING OUT!
HAVE SOME-THING WARM TO DRINK AND GET SOME REST!
...KEIICHI-KUN...
JUST FOR TONIGHT...
IT ONLY HAS TO BE FOR TONIGHT ...!

PLEASE!
RENA...!!

...I CAN'T, KEIICHI-KUN.
THERE'S STILL SOME-THING I NEED TO DO ...
BAGA
BAGA
BU-GOLENGOO
...TO SAVE HINAMI-ZAWA...
...TO SAVE THE VILLAGE WHERE YOU ARE, KEIICHI-KUN.

I WON'T LET THEM RELEASE THE PARA-SITES.
I'LL STOP THE SONO-ZAKIS' PLOT.

...IT MIGHT REALLY BREAK RENA'S MIND.
...BUT IF I DENY IT...
THERE IS NO PLOT TO DESTROY HINAMI-ZAWA.
THAT WAS ALL TAKANO-SAN'S FANTASY, RENA...
RENA...
#11
HIMA CCLENCIO
...
...BUT I'M SO HELP-LESS ...
SHE'S SO CLOSE TO ME...

...YOU KNOW WHAT?
...I FOUND A WAY TO END THIS FIGHT.
... REALLY ?
AND ONCE IT'S ENDED, THEN WE...
...CAN GO BACK TO OUR OLD, FUN LIFE, RIGHT?
.....
WE CAN GO BACK, RIGHT !?
IF WE CAN'T, I DON'T LIKE IT!!
I WON'T LET YOU LEAVE HERE !!
...AH-HA-HA.
IT'S ALL RIGHT, KEIICHI-KUN.
TO TAKE BACK OUR OLD, HAPPY DAYS, I HAVE TO MAKE A COMEBACK FROM A HOPELESS SITUATION ...

...THIS BATTLE EXISTS IN RENA'S IMAGINATION.
A HEART-WRENCHING BATTLE— THE MORE I APPROACH RENA TO HELP HER, THE MORE I DRIVE HER TO THE EDGE...
THIS IS MY LAST MOVE TO TURN THIS WHOLE GAME AROUND!
はぅ! OHH!
...OKAY, RENA...
AND RIGHT NOW, I DON'T HAVE THE POWER TO STOP HER...
...BE ON YOUR SIDE!!!
...I WILL ALWAYS ...
UNTIL THE VERY END...

WE'LL TAKE BACK THOSE TIMES WHEN WE HAD THE MOST FUN.
TOMORROW, THIS WILL ALL BE OVER.
AND THEN WE'LL ALL PLAY A FUN GAME WITH OUR CLUB.

RIGHT NOW THERE'S NOTHING MORE I CAN DO FOR HER.
I CAN'T SAVE RENA...
RENA ...

RENA ...
L3?
I HAVE TO GET THINGS READY FOR TOMORROW.
WELL... I'LL BE GOING NOW.

I MIGHT NEED TO ASK YOU TO DO SOME THINGS FOR ME, KEIICHI-KUN.
...WHEN I DO, PLEASE HELP RENA, OKAY...?

DON (THUMP)
DAMMIT ...
ALL I COULD DO WAS WATCH HER LEAVE...!
KEIICHI.
GYO (GASP)
WHAT WERE YOU DOING OUT AT THIS TIME OF NIGHT?
DAD...
.....

Hi... HOW DID YOU...?
I HEARD RENA-CHAN HASN'T BEEN AT HOME.
WERE YOU TALKING TO RENA-CHAN?
ドキ
Bzzzt

THEY HAD A BUNCH OF SQUAD CARS OUT, SEARCHING THE WHOLE VILLAGE.
AND NOT JUST THAT. YESTERDAY THE POLICE WERE IN AN UPROAR.

NO ...!!
BA (PWF)
THERE ARE RUMORS THAT RENA-CHAN...
...IS RUNNING FROM THE POLICE BECAUSE OF SOMETHING SHE DID.

RENA'S NOT DOING ANYTHING WRONG!
IT'S NOT LIKE THAT, DAD!
IT'S TRUE THAT SHE HASN'T BEEN HOME IN DAYS!
BUT SHE HAS HER REASONS FOR THAT ...!
YOU KNOW, KEIICHI.
.....?
HEH...

...IS EXACTLY WHERE THIS HOUSE STANDS NOW.
THE PLACE I VISITED THEN...
...THE FIRST TIME YOUR DAD SAW HINAMIZAWA ...
...WAS A LONG TIME AGO, WHEN I WAS HERE SIGHTSEEING.
AND AT THE TIME, IT WAS A FIELD OF BEAUTIFUL WILD FLOWERS.
IT WAS A VACANT LOT THAT WAS FOR SALE.
AND IN THAT FIELD...
...THERE WERE TWO GIRLS WITH LONG HAIR PLAYING TOGETHER.

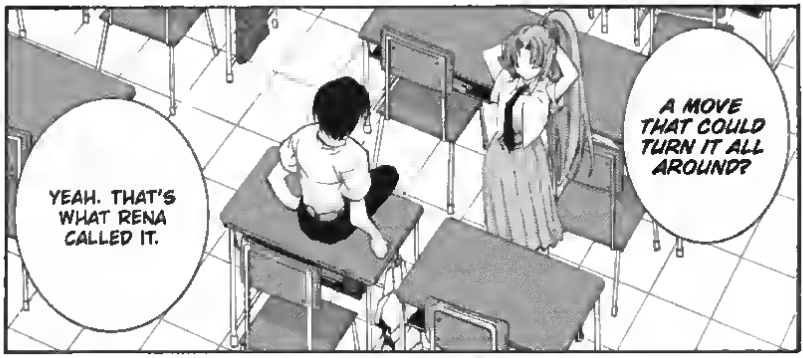
THEY BOTH SEEMED SO HAPPY AS THEY RAN...
...SPINNING AND DANCING THROUGH THE FIELD.
.....

AND I THOUGHT, "THERE COULDN'T BE ANY-WHERE ELSE."
...I THOUGHT OF THIS PLACE, WHERE THOSE GIRLS HAD LOOKED SO HAPPY.
...AND I BEGAN THINKING OF TAKING OUR FAMILY SOME-WHERE WE COULD START OVER FROM SQUARE ONE...
...WHEN YOU HAD YOUR EPISODE ...
YOUR DAD MADE THE RIGHT CHOICE.
...WHO TRIES SO DESPERATELY TO HELP HIS FRIENDS WHEN THEY'RE IN TROUBLE.
BECAUSE YOU'VE GROWN INTO A MAN...

I WON'T ASK YOU WHAT HAPPENED TO RENA-CHAN.
DAD...
...YOU CAN TALK TO ME OR YOUR MOTHER ANYTIME.
BUT IF THERE'S ANYTHING BOTHERING YOU ...
PACHIN (WINK)
パチン
THANK YOU...

THAT'S RIGHT. I CAN'T GIVE UP YET...
レシャーン...
(SHAN) (SNAP)
IF I CAN'T STOP RENA, THEN I CAN TRY TO PREDICT WHAT SHE'S GOING TO DO...
...AND STOP HER BEFORE SHE DOES ANYTHING THAT SHE CAN'T UNDO.
RENA SAID THIS MOVE WOULD TURN THE GAME AROUND...
WHAT COULD IT BE...?

ミーン
MIIN (BUZZZZ)
ミンミンミンミン…
MIN
MIN MIN


YEAH. THAT'S WHAT RENA CALLED IT.
A MOVE THAT COULD TURN IT ALL AROUND?

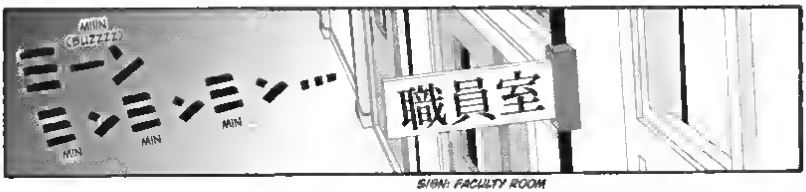
.....
LET'S CROSS OUR FINGERS SHE DOESN'T.

...NEXT HEAD OF THE SONOZAKI FAMILY?
WHAT, DOES SHE PLAN TO AMBUSH THE GREAT MION-SAMA ...

THERE WOULD BE NO POINT.
...NO, IF THAT WERE ALL, SHE WOULDN'T BE ABLE...
...TO STOP THE RELIGIOUS FANATICS CONTROLLING HINAMIZAWA OR THEIR PARASITE RESEARCH.

MAY I SPEAK TO YOU FOR A MOMENT?
MAEBARA-KUN, SONOZAKI-SAN.
BUT MAN, IT REEKS OF GASOLINE TODAY.
ARE THE FOREST SERVICE GUYS FUELING THEIR MACHINES?
SO WHAT MOVE IS RENA GOING TO MAKE...?

CHIE-SENSEI...



SIGN: FACULTY ROOM

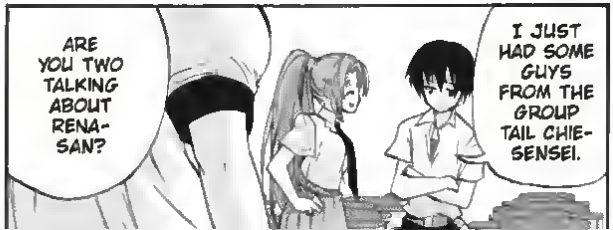
SENSEI! PLEASE LET US GO WITH YOU!
NO.

HELLO, KASAI-SAN?
THIS IS MION..

LET YOUR TEACHER HANDLE THIS.
YOU TWO TAKE CARE OF THINGS HERE.

DARN IT, RENA! WHAT DOES SHE WANT WITH CHIE-SENSEI?
RRRGH!
WELL, WE'LL KNOW SOON.

MION? (BUZZZZ)
MIN
MIN
MIN


I JUST HAD SOME GUYS FROM THE GROUP TAIL CHIE-SENSEI.
ARE YOU TWO TALKING ABOUT RENA-SAN?

SATOKO.
RIKA-CHAN...
CLASS REP! OUR BALL'S GONE!
I'M WORRIED, SIR MEW
...I'M SURE RENA WILL BE FINE.
WHAT? THIS ISN'T THE TIME FOR THAT.
HOW RUDE!
SATOKO, ARE YOU USING IT FOR SOME PRANK AGAIN?
I WOULD NEVER USE SOMEONE ELSE'S BALL TO LAY A TRAP.

BO-BO-BON (B-B-BOUNCE)
ボボ
MEW! THAT'S NOTHING TO BRAG ABOUT, SIR!
I USE ALL MY OWN BALLS!
ボォン

.. DOES NOT GIVE YOU THE RIGHT TO DISRUPT OUR EDUCATIONAL ENVIRONMENT!
ZUI (LOOM)
ズイッ
JUST 'COS THE PRINCIPAL AND CHIE-SENSEI ARE GONE...
...AND THERE AREN'T ANY ADULTS HERE...
YOU SHOULDN'T BE PLAYING WITH BALLS!
AND ANYWAY, THIS IS SUPPOSED TO BE INDEPENDENT STUDY.

THERE AREN'T ANY ADULTS HERE, HUH...?
YES, MA'AM.
SHE'S RIGHT.
YOU ALL NEED TO STUDY!

THE PRINCIPAL IS ALMOST NEVER AROUND TO BEGIN WITH, AND CHIE-SENSEI IS GONE...
...BECAUSE RENA CALLED HER AWAY...
HA (GASP)
はっ
RENA ...
IT CAN'T BE...
GATAN (CLATTER)
SARA (RATTLE)

RENA ...!?
STAND UP, STAND UP, EVERY-ONE!
GET TOGETHER IN THE MIDDLE OF THE ROOM, PLEASE!
...CAN'T YOU HEAR ME?
I SAID, GET TOGETHER IN THE MIDDLE OF THE ROOM, PLEASE!
MOVE THE DESKS TO THE EDGES OF THE ROOM, OKAY?
R... R-R-RENA ...
WHAT... ARE YOU DOING...?

BAKKYA (SMASH)
キル
...MY CLEAVER MIGHT GO INTO THIS GIRL'S HEAD.
IT MIGHT.
BIKU! (WINCE)
IF YOU DON'T HURRY AND DO WHAT I SAY...
... NEXT ...
MERO (LAP)

R... RENA-SAN...
EE... EEK...!
NOW, NOW. IF YOU ALL BE MY HOSTAGES LIKE GOOD BOYS AND GIRLS...
...THEN I THINK THE POLICE WILL BE KIND ENOUGH TO TAKE ME SERIOUSLY.
AND THAT WILL HELP ALL OF HINA-MIZAWA TOO!

...TO TURN THINGS AROUND.
...RENA...
YOU...
KEIICHI-KUN...
...THIS IS MY MOVE...

Higurashi
WHEN THEY CRY
ATONEMENT ARC

I HAVE TO PROTECT HINAMI-ZAWA FROM THEM.
...JUST WHAT ARE YOU TRYING TO DO...?
RENA ...
IF YOU ALL BE HER HOSTAGES, THEN I THINK THE POLICE WILL LISTEN TO RENA.
SO, EVERYONE ...
...LISTEN TO RENA AND BE GOOD BOYS AND GIRLS, OKAY?

CHAPTER 13: SIEGE

I NEVER THOUGHT RENA WOULD RESORT TO THIS.
THERE IS NO PLOT TO DESTROY HINAMIZAWA.
RENA'S GOING TO KILL HER CLASS-MATES...
...OVER A CONSPIR-ACY THAT DOESN'T EXIST...!

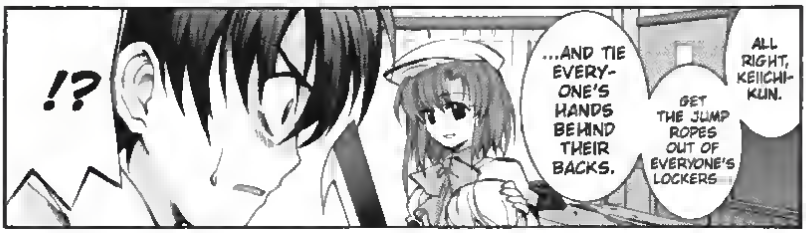
...OKAY, KEIICHI-KUN, DON'T MOVE.
WILL THE REST OF YOU PLEASE SIT IN THE MIDDLE OF THE ROOM?
...HURRY UP NOW.
IF YOU DON'T HURRY...
...I'M GOING TO GET ANGRY.

THERE, JUST LIKE THAT. GOOD CHILDREN.
...I'M GOING TO SAY THIS TO ALL OF YOU...
(SIT)

...I'LL KILL YOU!!
IF ANY OF YOU STAND UP WITHOUT MY PERMISSION...
ガ
GA (WHAM)
I'LL KILL THE PERSON WHO STANDS UP...
ビ
BZZ (WINGS)
...AND I'LL KILL ANOTHER PERSON RANDOMLY TO MAKE AN EXAMPLE OF THEM!
...NO, RANDOM WON'T WORK.
GAN (WHAM)
THEN HOW ABOUT THIS?
ガーン
GAN

UNDER-STAND!? YOU'LL ALL DIE IN PAIRS!!
I'LL KILL THE PERSON WHOSE SEAT NUMBER IS YOURS PLUS TEN!!
FOR EXAM-PLE .IF OKAMURA-KUN, SEAT NUMBER 1, DOESN'T LISTEN TO WHAT I SAY..
...THEN WATANABE-KUN, SEAT NUMBER 11, WILL BE KILLED WITH HIM.
ENGRAVE THAT THOUGHT INTO YOUR HEARTS!
IF YOU DEFY ME, YOUR LIFE ALONE WON'T BE ENOUGH TO PAY FOR IT!
RENA REALLY KNOWS HOW TO MAKE A THREAT...
H... HOW COULD SHE...?

...DO YOU ALL UNDERSTAND?
NIKO (SMILE)
...THEY CAN'T RESIST ANYMORE.
BUT WHEN THEIR RESISTANCE STARTS TO GET OTHERS INVOLVED...
...KNOWING THAT IF THEY FAIL, THEY'LL BE THE ONE TO DIE OVER IT
WHEN PEOPLE RESIST, THEY DO IT WITH THE RESOLVE TO FACE THE CONSEQUENCES.


!?
...AND TIE EVERYONE'S HANDS BEHIND THEIR BACKS.
GET THE JUMP ROPES OUT OF EVERYONE'S LOCKERS
ALL RIGHT, KEIICHI-KUN.

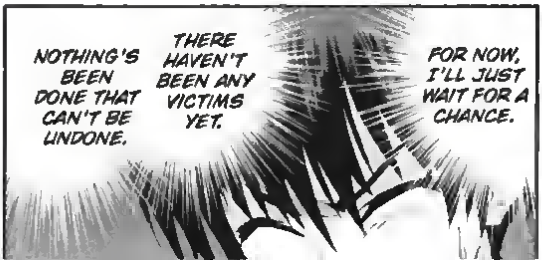
SO TIE THEM NICE AND TIGHT, OKAY?
IF ANYONE'S ROPE IS LOOSE, I'LL KILL THEM ON THE SPOT.
T...TIE THEM ALL UP...? BUT...
I'LL CHECK TO MAKE SURE YOU TIED THEM UP RIGHT.

KHH...
THE WAY RENA IS NOW, IF SHE DECIDES SHE'S GOING TO KILL SOMEONE, SHE REALLY WILL.
...THERE ARE STILL LOTS OF THINGS I NEED YOU TO HELP ME WITH, KEIICHI-KUN.
IF YOU DON'T HURRY... SOME OF THEM MIGHT DIE.
GIRI (GRIT)
...DO WHAT SHE SAYS, KE!-CHAN ...
MION...
WAAAAH!
AH-HA-HA. IT'S OKAY, EVERY-ONE!
I'M SURE KEIICHI-KUN WILL HELP ME.

AH-HA-HA-HA-HA-HA-HA-HA-HA-HA-HA-HA-HA!
SO NO ONE'S GOING TO BE KILLED!

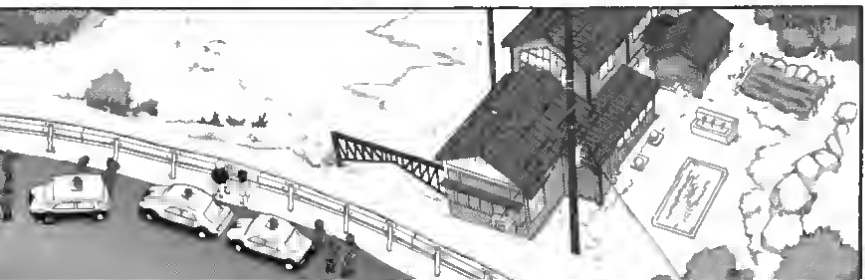
THAT WAY, I WON'T MAKE RENA INTO A MURDERER.
...BUT RIGHT NOW, ALL I CAN DO IS LISTEN TO WHAT SHE SAYS.

SHE'S OBVIOUSLY THREATENING ME...
DAMMIT...


NOTHING'S BEEN DONE THAT CAN'T BE UNDONE.
THERE HAVEN'T BEEN ANY VICTIMS YET.
FOR NOW, I'LL JUST WAIT FOR A CHANCE.

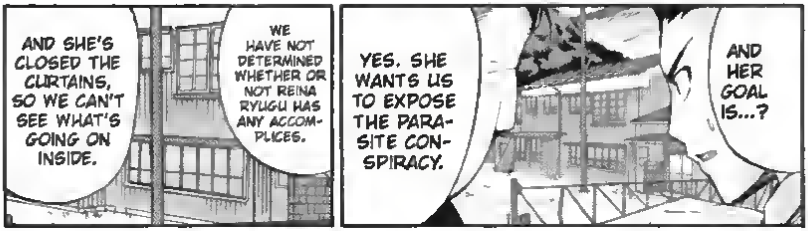
I...
I HAVE TO DO SOMETHING ...!

ジジジジ
(BZZZZ)
ジジジジ

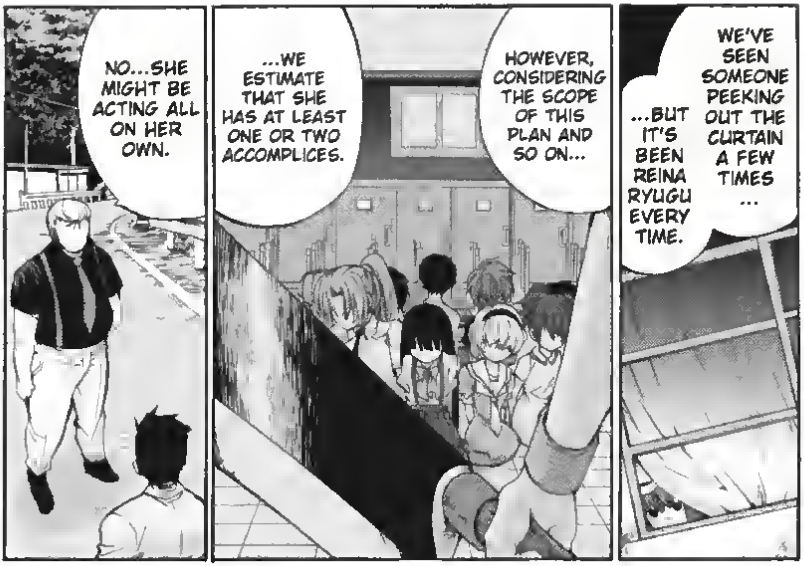


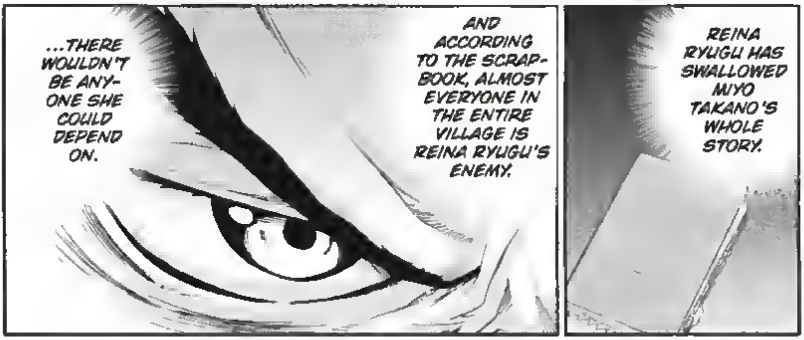
OOISHI-SAN.
HER OCCUPATION OF THE CLASSROOM STARTED AROUND ONE IN THE AFTERNOON.
YES... ABOUT THAT.
...AND WHO'S THE CRIMINAL WHO WOULD DO SOMETHING SO STUPID?
...AND THAT SHE BE GIVEN A HOTLINE TO US.
HER FIRST DEMANDS ARE THAT NO ONE BE ALLOWED ON THE FOREST SERVICES SITE THAT CONTAINS THE SCHOOL...
!?
SHE DEMANDS TO BE ALLOWED TO NEGOTIATE WITH YOU DIRECTLY, OOISHI-SAN.
THE HOSTAGE TAKER IS REINA RYUGU.

... RYUGU-SAN...
FIRST ALL THAT COMMOTION ABOUT BIOTERRORISM, AND NOW A SCHOOL SIEGE?
SHE'S REALLY DOING A NUMBER ON US.


AND HER GOAL IS...?
YES. SHE WANTS US TO EXPOSE THE PARA-SITE CON-SPIRACY.
WE HAVE NOT DETERMINED WHETHER OR NOT REINA RYUGU HAS ANY ACCOM-PLICES.
AND SHE'S CLOSED THE CURTAINS, SO WE CAN'T SEE WHAT'S GOING ON INSIDE.

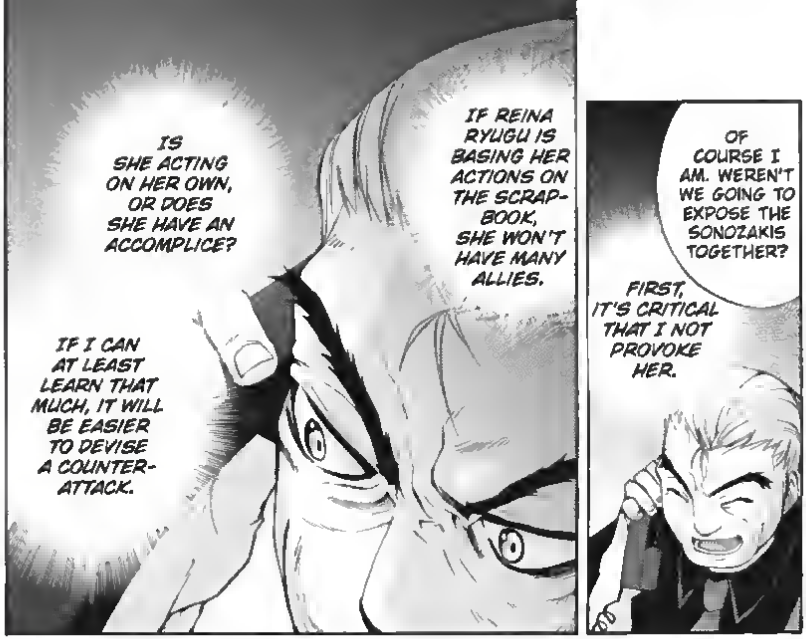
THE TAKE-OVER HAP-PENED WHILE THEIR TEACH-ER WAS AWAY.
SHE WAS SUMMONED BY REINA RYUGU IMMEDIATELY BEFORE THE SIEGE.
わあああ WAAAAH!
IT'S ALL MY FAULT ...!
... SOUNDS LIKE SHE HAD IT ALL PLANNED OUT.
ARE THERE ANY OTHERS WHO MIGHT BE WORK-ING WITH HER?


NO...SHE MIGHT BE ACTING ALL ON HER OWN.
...WE ESTIMATE THAT SHE HAS AT LEAST ONE OR TWO ACCOMPLICES.
HOWEVER, CONSIDERING THE SCOPE OF THIS PLAN AND SO ON...
...BUT IT'S BEEN REINA RYUGU EVERY TIME.
WE'VE SEEN SOMEONE PEEKING OUT THE CURTAIN A FEW TIMES ...


...THERE WOULDN'T BE ANY-ONE SHE COULD DEPEND ON.
AND ACCORDING TO THE SCRAP-BOOK, ALMOST EVERYONE IN THE ENTIRE VILLAGE IS REINA RYUGU'S ENEMY.
REINA RYUGU HAS SWALLOWED MIYO TAKANO'S WHOLE STORY.

OOISHI-SAN!
(SCRATCH)
BUT WE DON'T HAVE ENOUGH INSIDE INFORMATION. HOW DO WE BREAK THIS SIEGE...?

THE CAPTOR HAS CALLED THE CAR PHONE!
...IT'S REINA RYUGU!
SHIN (SILENCE)
You're on my side, aren't you?
...Hello? This is Ryugu.
First, I will make sure that you're qualified to negotiate with me, Doishi-san.


IS SHE ACTING ON HER OWN, OR DOES SHE HAVE AN ACCOMPLICE?
IF REINA RYUGU IS BASING HER ACTIONS ON THE SCRAP-BOOK, SHE WON'T HAVE MANY ALLIES.
IF I CAN AT LEAST LEARN THAT MUCH, IT WILL BE EASIER TO DEVISE A COUNTER-ATTACK.
OF COURSE I AM. WEREN'T WE GOING TO EXPOSE THE SONOZAKIS TOGETHER?
FIRST, IT'S CRITICAL THAT I NOT PROVOKE HER.

I'd feel a lot better if we had more friends.
Is there anyone else who believes what was written in the scrap-book?

!!
If it's friends you want ...
...then Keiichi-kun is on our side.
FRIENDS ...

...KEIICHI MAEBARA-SAN?
MAEBARA-SAN IS ON OUR SIDE TOO?
GU (CLENCH)
IF SHE HAS AN ACCOMPLICE, THAT'LL MAKE THINGS DIFFICULT.
Weren't you suspicious of Maebara-san for a while?
...I WAS.
WHEN YOU TOLD ME ABOUT THE MODEL GUN INCIDENT, I THOUGHT HE MUST BE A TERRIBLE PERSON.
BUT WE FORGAVE EACH OTHER. SO I WON'T EVER SUSPECT HIM AGAIN.
KEIICHI-KUN IS MY FRIEND.
IS KEIICHI MAEBARA REINA RYUGU'S ACCOMPLICE?
OR IS HE ONE OF THE HOSTAGES ...?
THAT'S GOOD TO HEAR. I'D LIKE TO SAY HELLO TO MY NEW FRIEND.
Can you put him on the phone?
PIKU (TWITCH)

I'll put him on now.
...All right. I can do that.

HAS SHE REALIZED THAT I'M TRYING TO FEEL HER OUT ...?
...WAS THAT A MISTAKE?

HO (WHEW)

KATSUN
KATSUN
KATSUN
KATSUN (CLACK)
I hope we'll both work hard on this case.
YES...I'M COUNTING ON YOU.
Hello, hello, Maebara-san! This is Ooishi from the Okinomiya Police.
...HELLO? ...THIS IS MAEBARA.
KATSUN
...SHE'S WALKING AROUND THE CLASS-ROOM.
KATSUN
KATSUN
What is Ryugu-san doing now?
...MAEBARA-SAN, I'M GOING TO ASK YOU SOME QUESTIONS.
GOOD. SHE ISN'T CLOSE TO HIM.
SHE WON'T HEAR ME OVER THE PHONE.
BUT I HAVE TO FEEL HIM OUT CAREFULLY.
THERE'S NO EMOTION IN HIS VOICE. ...IT'S VERY LIKELY THAT REIHA RYUGU IS FORCING HIM TO OBEY HER

...Are you pretending to obey Rena Ryugu ...
...because she's threatening you...?

IF THE ANSWER IS YES, SAY "YES."
IF THE ANSWER IS NO, SAY "UH-HUH."
LIKE YOU'RE JUST ACKNOWLEDGING WHAT I'M TELLING YOU.

IS ANYONE WORKING WITH RENA RYUGU?
ALL RIGHT. NOW I KNOW THAT KEIICHI MAEBARA ISN'T AN ACCOMPLICE.
I CAN GET MORE DETAILS FROM HIM!

...YES.

NO? GOOD!!
Uh-huh.
NOW THAT WE KNOW SHE'S WORKING ALONE, THAT WILL CHANGE OUR GAME PLAN ACCORDINGLY.
KATSUN (CLACK)
OKAY THEN, MAEBARA-SAN.
ALL RIGHT, LET'S SEE IF WE CAN'T GET A LITTLE MORE INFORMATION ...
DAMN, I'M EMBARRASSED FOR BELIEVING IT MYSELF!
SO NO ONE ELSE BELIEVED THE DELUSIONS IN TAKANO'S SCRAPBOOK AFTER ALL.
GARI (SCRATCH)
GARI

DOKIN
DOKIN
SEE?
KEIICHI-KUN IS ON OUR SIDE.

THAT WAS CLOSE, THAT WAS CLOSE!
THAT'S VERY ENCOURAGING.
YES, YOU WERE RIGHT.

...ALL RIGHT, NOW IT'S YOUR TURN TO TALK, OOISHI-SAN.
YES...

WE CAN'T CONDUCT A SEARCH BASED ON THAT SCRAP-BOOK.
!
DID YOU FIND THE SECRET LABORATORY WHERE THEY'RE RESEARCHING THE PARASITES?
HOW IS THE SEARCH OF THE SONOZAKI FAMILY GOING?
...AND IS TESTING ME.
ON THE OTHER HAND, MAYBE SHE KNOWS THAT WE'RE NOT DOING A SEARCH...
...BUT IF I TELL HER THAT WE'RE NOT DOING A SEARCH, I'LL GIVE HER A BAD IMPRES-SION.
We're working with the prefectural police's Organized Crime Team and Public Security. Everything is going smoothly.
...We're currently preparing our strategy for how to conduct the search.
...I'LL JUST HAVE TO DANCE AROUND THIS ONE...

YOU'RE TAKING TOO LONG !!!
BA (BAM)
SO JUST EVADING HER QUESTION WON'T GET ME ANY-WHERE.
O-OF COURSE I DO.
You do really believe me, don't you?
You do understand what a danger-ous position Hinamizawa is in, don't you, Ooishi-san!?
It's the evidence.
We don't have enough evidence.

OKAY. I'LL USE THIS LINE OF TALK TO LEAD US TO A COUNTER-ATTACK STRATEGY.
IF WE JUST HAD THE EVIDENCE, WE COULD START AN ALL-OUT SEARCH IMMEDI-ATELY.
...Police organiza-tion isn't simple.
...EVI-DENCE ...
.....!
Do you have anything? Anything we can use as evidence...?
YES!
Please use it to conuince the police as soon as pos-sible...!
I'LL GIVE YOU TAKANO-SAN'S SCRAP-BOOK...
ALL RIGHT...
...

KUMA-CHAN! GET ME EVERY-THING ON THIS LIST!
ROGER!
SO SHE'LL USE HER "FRIEND" AS A MESSEN-GER!
STILL, IT'S HARD TO BELIEVE SHE'D LET ME, A POLICE OFFICER, INSIDE THE SCHOOL.
MOST LIKELY, REINA RYUGU WON'T COME GIVE ME THE SCRAPBOOK HERSELF.
SARA (WRITE)
SARA
NOW I CAN BREAK DOWN THE IRON WALLS OF HER SIEGE...!

カナ カナ カナ…
KANA
KANA
KANA (CHAIR)
HERE. THIS IS A VERY VALUABLE SCRAPBOOK.
ALL RIGHT, KEIICHI-KUN.
DON'T TALK TO ANYONE.
...RENA WILL BE WATCHING.
GO GIVE IT TO OOISHI-SAN, OKAY?

KOTSUN (KNOCK)
I DON'T WANT YOU... DOING ANYTHING FUNNY.
EEK ...!

WHATEVER I DO, I CAN'T LET HER KILL ANYONE.
AS LONG AS RENA HAS THE WHOLE CLASS HOSTAGE, I CAN'T DO ANYTHING THAT MIGHT UPSET HER.

I KNOW. I WON'T SAY A WORD.
SO PUT THE CLEAVER DOWN OKAY ?

BUT WHAT THE HELL SHOULD I DO...?

カナ KANA
カナ KANA
カナ KANA
カナ KANA
カナ KANA
カナ KANA
KANA CHIRP
KANA
KANA
KANA

HELLO, HELLO!
I'M OOISHI OF THE OKINOMIYA POLICE.
IF YOU WANT, YOU CAN CALL ME KURA-CHAN.
I-I'M SORRY. RENA TOLD ME NOT TO SAY ANY-THING.
PLEASE TAKE THIS ...!

N GRIND
...I UNDER-STAND. I'LL TAKE IT.

SU GRIND

?
SUTON
OTHIKO
...?
IT'S OKAY. THE SCHOOL BUILDING IS BEHIND YOU.
EVEN IF RYUGU-SAN IS WATCHING FROM THE WINDOW, SHE WOULDN'T HAVE SEEN THAT.

STAY ANY LONGER, AND SHE'LL GET SUSPICIOUS!
...ALL RIGHT, NOW GO BACK AND ACT NATURAL!
SEE FOR YOURSELF, SOMEWHERE RYUGU-SAN WON'T FIND YOU.
?
WHAT DID YOU PUT THERE?
KANA (CHIRP)
KANA
KANA
!
NOW'S MY ONLY CHANCE TO SEE WHAT IT IS...
RENA WILL HAVE TO STAY IN THE CLASSROOM TO MAKE SURE NONE OF HER HOSTAGES ESCAPE.
GARA (RUMMAGE)
GARA (RATTLE)
WHAT DID THAT DETEC-TIVE PUT IN MY POCKET?

THIS IS...

THERE'S A NOTE FROM OOISHI-SAN.
Maebara-kun, this is a wiretap.
Please hide it in your pocket
Put on the earphones, and we can talk.
SO NOW I CAN COMMUNICATE WITH THE OUTSIDE.

The canister is a self-defense spray.
It sprays a powerful gas that will distract your attacker
!

The spray has a range of one meter. Aim for the face.
It will neutralize your attacker with intense pain and coughing.
But be careful. The self-defense spray is for just that—self-defense.
It's not strong enough to knock her unconscious immediately.
Therefore...
NOW I HAVE A WAY TO FIGHT RENA.
THIS IS A WEAPON ...?
IF I USE THIS, I MIGHT BE ABLE TO STOP HER...!
GU (CLENCH)

...never forget that there's a risk that she'll go into a panic...
...and fly into a desperate rage
GULP

THAT WON'T BE EASY, DAMMIT...
I'LL ONLY HAVE ONE CHANCE.
AND AIM FOR RENA'S FACE? WHEN SHE'S SO GUARDED?

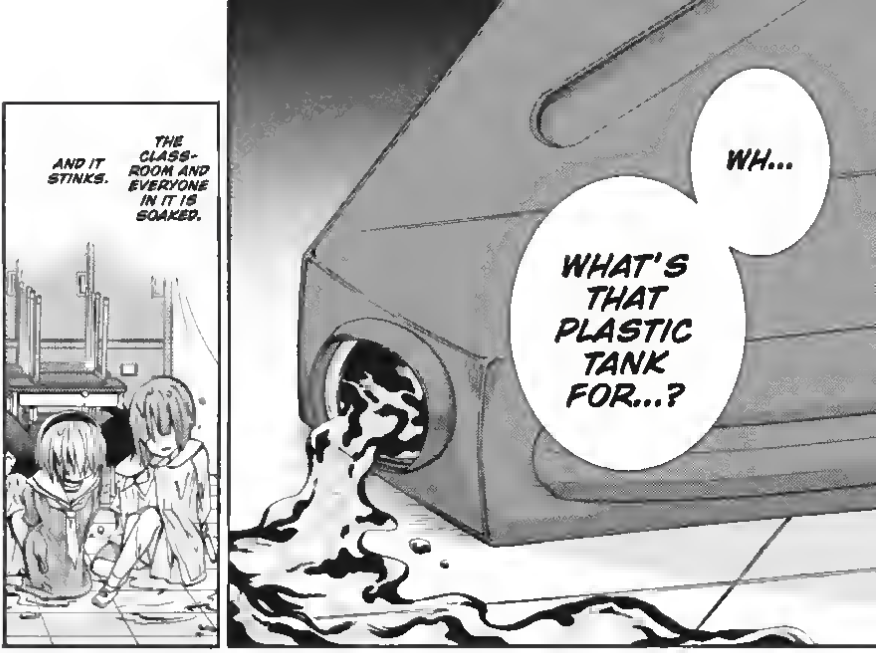
HEY, WHAT KIND OF A RISKY WEAPON'D YOU GIVE ME...!?
GOKURI (GULP)

...I CAN'T LET THINGS KEEP GOING LIKE THIS ...
...BUT ...
GYU (CLENCH)

IF I FAIL, RENA WILL KILL ME.

I WILL FIGHT RENA.
ZA
ZA (STEP)
...IF I'M GOING TO STOP RENA, I HAVE TO DO IT NOW— BEFORE THERE ARE ANY VICTIMS.
I'LL DO WHAT-EVER IT TAKES TO STOP HER.
ZA
ZA
IT'S THE LAST MOVE I HAVE LEFT.
...KILL ANYONE EVER AGAIN...!
I WON'T LET RENA ...
GARA (RATTLE)

BASHA (SPLASH)
POTA
POTA (DRIP)
POTA
WH... WHAT THE ...?
OH... SORRY, KEIICHI-KUN.
DID OOISHI-SAN SAY ANYTHING?
GOTON (CLUNK)


THE CLASS-ROOM AND EVERYONE IN IT IS SOAKED.
AND IT STINKS.
WH...
WHAT'S THAT PLASTIC TANK FOR...?

THIS SMELL ...
THIS ISN'T JUST ANY LIQUID.

WHAT DID YOU POUR EVERY-WHERE...?
R-RENA... YOU...
IT CAN'T BE...?

.....!!
GASOLINE.
IF THE POLICE DON'T GIVE IN TO MY DEMANDS ...
...OR THEY TRY TO FORCE ENTRY ...

...
THEN I'LL BURN DOWN THIS CLASS-ROOM ...
... AND EVERY-ONE IN IT.

NOW THE POLICE WON'T HAVE SUCH AN EASY TIME INTERFERING.
H-HOW CAN SHE DO THIS? IT'S CRAZY ...!
WITH THIS MUCH GASOLINE EVERYWHERE ...
...WE'RE SURE TO BURN TO DEATH.
HOW COULD THIS HAPPEN...? I THOUGHT I COULD STOP RENA WITH THIS WEAPON.
BUT...
...EVEN IF I CAN BLIND HER...
...I CAN'T STOP THE FLAMES FROM THE LIGHTER.

D... DAMMIT ...
NOW ...
...IF IT'S LIT AND FALLS TO THE FLOOR, IT'S ALL OVER.
EVEN IF I DO MANAGE TO ATTACK HER...
THAT KIND OF LIGHTER STAYS LIT UNTIL YOU CLOSE THE LID.
AND THAT RENA! SHE'S GOT A ZIPPO!
...SHE'S TAKEN MY ONLY WEAPON ...!

IF THIS KEEPS UP, THEN RENA...
...ME...
GU (CLENCH)
...ALL OF US...
THE CONSPIRACY SHE'S TRYING TO STOP DOESN'T EXIST.
THE POLICE CAN'T POSSIBLY GIVE RENA WHAT SHE WANTS.
...TO CARRY THIS THROUGH TO THE END.
AND WHEN THEY DON'T GIVE IN, RENA WON'T HESITATE...

...WILL BURN TO DEATH...!

CHAPTER 14: TIME LIMIT

WAAAH
わぁぁぁ
あぁぁ
AAAAH!
あぁぁ

I CAN'T USE MY WEAPON LIKE THIS.
I CAN'T FIND ANY WAY TO STOP RENA.
YOU DON'T NEED TO GO THAT FAR. EVERYTHING WILL BE FINE...PUT DOWN THE LIGHTER. OKAY?

DON'T TELL ME YOU EMPTIED THE ENTIRE TANK!?
YOU POURED GASOLINE EVERY-WHERE ...?

WHAT THE HELL SHOULD I DO...!?
KANA
KANA (CHIRP)
KANA
KANA
KANA
KANA
KANA
KANA
KANA...
You po... gasoline every...
...me you emptied the entire tank...?
G-GASO-LINE !?

BLAST IT, REINA RYUGU... THAT'S A BOLD MOVE.
TANK? LIKE A PLASTIC TANK FOR HOLDING GASOLINE?

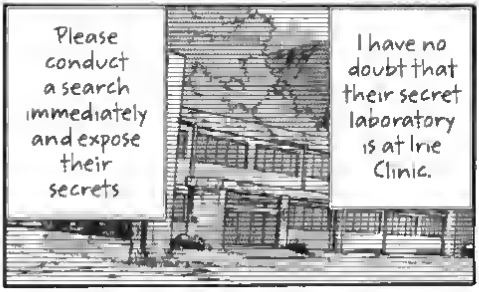
...
...IF THE WORST SHOULD HAPPEN, WHAT WOULD BE THE DIFFERENCE IN THE EXPLOSION RANGE?
GIRI (GRIT)
WHICH ONE DID SHE USE? THE EIGHTEEN OR THE FIVE?
FOREST SERVICES USES TWO SIZES— EIGHTEEN- AND FIVE-LITER.

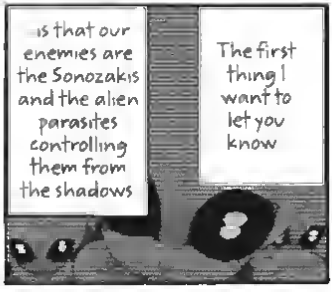
EVERYONE INSIDE WOULD DIE.
...THE CLASS-ROOM WOULD BE BLOWN TO SMITHER-EENS.

...YOU MEAN IF SHE USED EIGHTEEN LITERS?
NO... I MEAN FIVE.
S-SO IF SHE USED EIGHTEEN...?
NOT A POST OF THE SCHOOL WOULD BE LEFT STANDING.
PO... CHIL
CALL THE FIRE DEPARTMENT IMMEDIATELY!
HAVE THEM STAND BY WITH A CHEMICAL TRUCK SOMEWHERE THE HOSTAGE TAKER WON'T SEE!
THAT CLASSROOM IS FULL OF GASOLINE FUMES. IT'S A GIANT BOMB.
AND ACCORDING TO OUR WIRETAP INFORMATION, SHE HAS A LIGHTER.
GASOLINE BURNS AT ABOUT THREE HUNDRED DEGREES CELSIUS.
A SPARK OR EVEN STATIC ELECTRICITY COULD IGNITE IT AND CAUSE AN EXPLOSION.
GU (CLENCH)

...THAT ALONE COULD SET OFF A HUGE EXPLOSION ...!
IF SHE EVEN PRETENDS TO THREATEN THEM BY LIGHTING THE LIGHTER...
...HOW CAN WE POSSIBLY FREE THE HOSTAGES IN THIS SITUATION...?
AND THAT MEANS THE SPRAY I GAVE KEIICHI MAEBARA WON'T DO ANY GOOD.
GASA (RUSTLE)
WHAT !?
...AND FOUND A LETTER FROM THE HOSTAGE TAKER!
E... EXCUSE ME! WE OPENED THE SCRAP-BOOK...

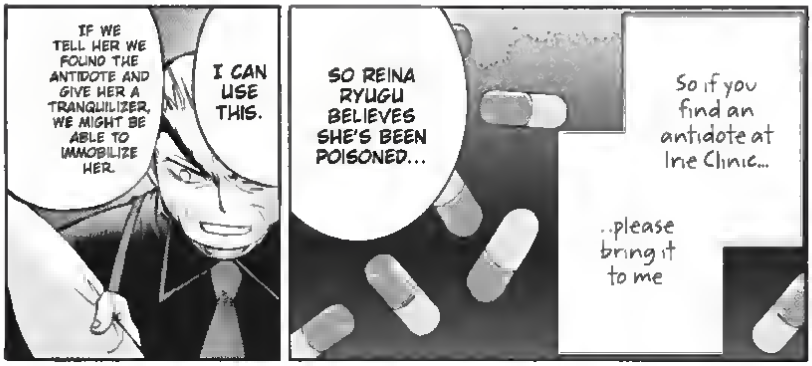
Dear Ooishi-sama...
If you're reading this letter..
..that means we've most likely entered the last stage of the game.


Please conduct a search immediately and expose their secrets
I have no doubt that their secret laboratory is at Irie Clinic.


...is that our enemies are the Sonozakis and the alien parasites controlling them from the shadows
The first thing I want to let you know

I will probably scratch out my throat and die before the night is over
...They've already poisoned me with the same drug that killed Tomi-take-san

MIYO TAKANO'S SCRAPBOOKS ARE ALL COLLECTIONS OF BIZARRE THEORIES.
PERSONALLY, I LIKE THE ONE ABOUT OSSIE...
A... ALIENS? SECRET LAB ...??
THAT'S CRAZY TALK...!


IF WE TELL HER WE FOUND THE ANTIDOTE AND GIVE HER A TRANQUILIZER, WE MIGHT BE ABLE TO IMMOBILIZE HER.
I CAN USE THIS.
SO REINA RYUGU BELIEVES SHE'S BEEN POISONED...
So if you find an antidote at Ine Clinic...
..please bring it to me

So I've calculated what little time I have left..
...or that if you do, you won't make it to me in time
But it's possible that you won't find an antidote..

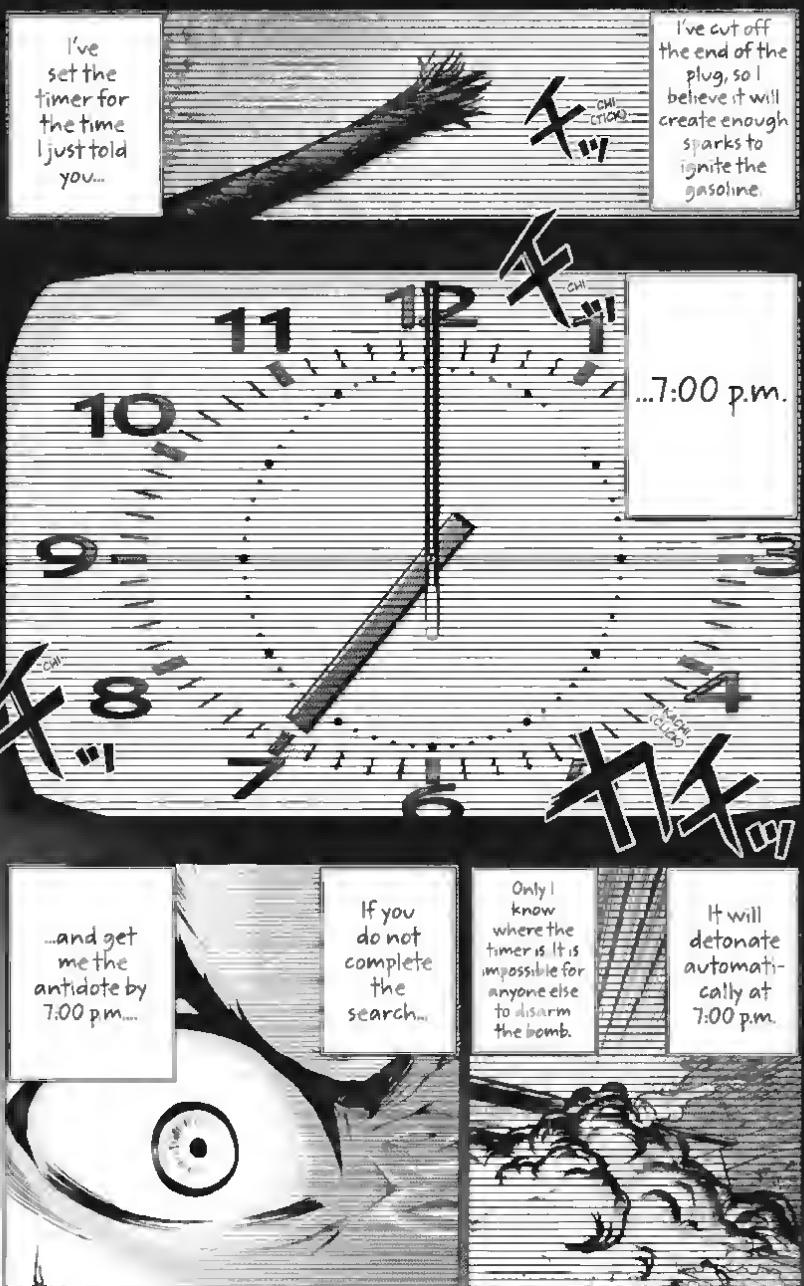
7:00 P.M.!?
...and I'm going to end negotiations at 7:00 p.m.
I plan to douse the classroom in gasoline.
ばっ!!

Furthermore, I will not allow the negotiations to be prolonged.
SIX O'CLOCK EXACTLY !!
WHAT TIME IS IT NOW !?
BUT ALL WE HAVE TO DO IS PREVENT HER FROM USING THE LIGHTER.
ONE HOUR LEFT... THERE'S NO TIME.
... OOISHI-SAN! THERE'S MORE!
WE'LL DRAG OUT NEGO-TIATIONS SOMEHOW ...
The truth is, I've already...

...prepared another way to blow up the classroom...
...aside from the gasoline I've poured in the room.

...with gasoline and a kitchen timer.
I made a simple time bomb...

ANOTHER WAY TO BLOW UP THE SCHOOL ...?
A...


I've set the timer for the time I just told you...
CHI (CHICK)...
I've cut off the end of the plug, so I believe it will create enough sparks to ignite the gasoline.
CHI
...7:00 p.m.
CHI
CHI (CLICK)
...and get me the antidote by 7:00 p.m....
If you do not complete the search...
Only I know where the timer is. It is impossible for anyone else to disarm the bomb.
It will detonate automatically at 7:00 p.m.

...then I choose to burn to death...
...with all of my hostages.
Please give me your cooperation so we can avoid this tragedy
To my ally, Ooishi-san. From Rena Ryugu
D-DAMMIT! SHE CALLS HER-SELF MY "ALLY"!
GUSHA (CRUMPLE)
COULD WE CALL THE ELECTRIC COMPANY AND ASK THEM TO TURN OFF THE POWER?
...OH, BUT IF THE CLASSROOM GOES DARK, SHE'LL GET OUT THE LIGHTER FOR SURE...

B-BAD NEWS, OOISHI-SAN!
THERE'S NO TIME! WE HAVE TO SETTLE THIS NOW!
MAYBE WE SHOULD GO THE ANTIDOTE ROUTE AND GIVE HER A SLOW-ACTING TRANQ OR SOME-THING
WHAT !?
REINA RYUGU HAS STARTED ABUSING THE HOS-TAGES!
GAN
GAN
GAN
GAN
GAN
GAN
(HIHAGO)

GAN (WHACK)

C-CUT IT OUT, RENA!
GAN
GAN
GAN
IF YOU KEEP HITTING HER WITH THAT CLEAVER ...
... YOU'LL KILL HER !!

KH... KHI!
IF YOU MOVE, YOU'LL MAKE RENA MAD.
(SU (SHD)
YOU PROMISED NOT TO MOVE FROM THAT WALL, KEIICHI-KUN.

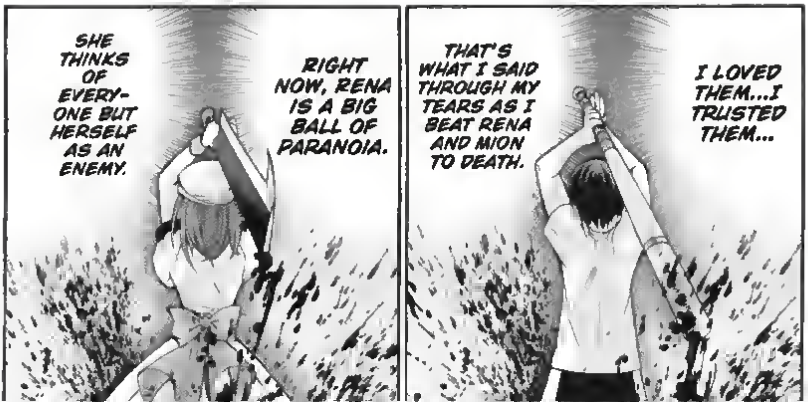
THAT'S NOT NICE, MII-CHAN. WE WERE SUCH GOOD FRIENDS.
MII-CHAN DUG UP THE BODIES AND SOLD ME OUT TO THE POLICE.

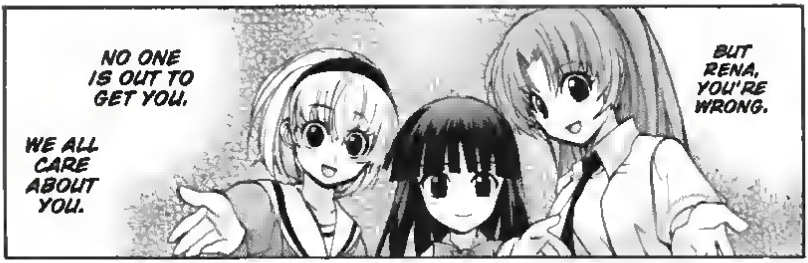
THAT'S NOT NICE.
THAT'S NOT NICE.
YOU REALLY WERE MY VERY BEST FRIEND.

THAT'S NOT NICE.
THAT'S NOT NICE.
THAT'S NOT NICE.
THAT'S NOT NICE.
MION WANTED TO HIDE THE BODIES SOME-WHERE SAFE TO PROTECT YOU...

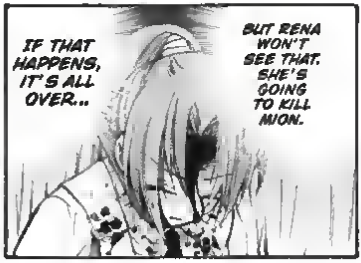
THAT'S NOT NICE!!!

...SHE'S JUST LIKE I WAS BACK THEN...
KYAAAAA!
AH... AH...


SHE THINKS OF EVERY-ONE BUT HERSELF AS AN ENEMY.
RIGHT NOW, RENA IS A BIG BALL OF PARANOIA.
THAT'S WHAT I SAID THROUGH MY TEARS AS I BEAT RENA AND MION TO DEATH.
I LOVED THEM...I TRUSTED THEM...


NO ONE IS OUT TO GET YOU.
WE ALL CARE ABOUT YOU.
BUT RENA, YOU'RE WRONG.

THAT SADNESS WILL BE MORE PAIN-FUL THAN ANYTHING YOU CAN IMAGINE...
ONCE SHE'S KILLED HER, EVEN IF SHE DOES REALIZE HER MISTAKE, SHE WON'T BE ABLE TO FIX IT.


IF THAT HAPPENS, IT'S ALL OVER...
BUT RENA WON'T SEE THAT. SHE'S GOING TO KILL MION.

...PLEASE STOP..
BORO
BORO (DRIP)
S... STOP... RENA ...

YOU MIGHT NOT UNDER-STAND ...
...WHY YOU HAVE TO STOP.

...THE DAY WILL COME WHEN YOU REGRET IT...
BUT IF YOU DON'T STOP...
...IF YOU COME ANY CLOSER, I'LL HIT YOU. DON'T THINK I WON'T.
IF YOU DON'T GO BACK TO THE WALL, RENA WILL GET MAD.
K... KEIICHI-KUN...?
IF I WERE UP AGAINST SOMEONE WITH A DANGEROUS WEAPON, I WOULD BE SO SCARED I WOULD DO EVERY-THING SHE TOLD ME!
AH-HA-HA-HA-HA-HA! OF COURSE I WOULD!
IF YOU WERE IN MY SHOES, DO YOU THINK YOU WOULD WORRY ABOUT YOUR OWN LIFE ...?

BIKU (WINCE)
YOU'RE LYING !!!
AND YOU NEVER COVERED YOUR HEAD, NOT EVEN WHEN I KILLED YOU!
EVEN TO THE END, YOU ASKED ME TO TRUST YOU!
YOU HAD REAL STRENGTH!
YOU ONCE RISKED YOUR LIFE TO STOP ME!
SO NOW IT'S MY TURN!
I'LL STOP YOU!

YOU MAY NOT UNDERSTAND IT, BUT I KNOW HOW THIS WILL END FOR YOU!
I KNOW ALL THE REGRET YOU WILL FEEL!
WH... WHAT IN THE WORLD ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT!? ARE YOU OKAY, KEIICHI-KUN!?
K... KEIICHI-KUN...
IF YOU WANT TO BREAK MY HEAD OPEN, GO AHEAD AND DO IT!
IF YOU COME ANY CLOSER, I REALLY WILL USE THIS CLEAVER ON YOU !!
IF YOU WANT IT, RENA, I'LL GIVE YOU MY LIFE!
IF... IF YOU COME ANY CLOSER, I'LL USE THE LIGHTER!

I CAME HERE TO SAVE YOU!
SNAP OUT OF IT, RENA!
I'LL SAY IT AS MANY TIMES AS IT TAKES!
RENA!
TRUST ME!!

GA (WHACK)

EEP!!
KEIICHI-SA—!

...POOR KEIICHI-KUN...
...THEY'RE CONTROL-LING YOU, KEIICHI-KUN.
HAA CHUFF?
HAA
DO (THUD)

IF OOISHI-SAN COMES WITH THE CURE, I'LL USE IT ON YOU FIRST, OKAY?
...THEN YOU CAN GO BACK TO BEING THE KEIICHI-KUN RENA LOVED SO MUCH.
KH! YOU...
... STUPID IDIOT...!
DAMMIT! HOW CAN I OPEN RENA'S EYES?
IS IT IMPOSSIBLE TO STOP THE TRAGEDY?
IS THERE NO WAY FOR ME TO STOP RENA...!?

JIRIRIRIRIRIRIRI
(BRRRRRING)

SFX: GU (CLENCH)
I GUESS I HAVE TO ANSWER IT...
.....
THE PHONE... THEY'RE CALLING THE FACULTY ROOM...
JIRIRIRIRIN
JIRIRIRIRIN

PIKKAN
(FLASH)

...IF ANYONE RUNS, MII-CHAN WILL BE IN BIG TROUBLE, OKAY?
...I'M GOING TO THE FACULTY ROOM. I DON'T WANT ANYONE RUNNING AWAY.

RENA...
GYU (CLENCH)
PU-PUUU (HON-HOOONK)
...A CAR HORN?
PUUUUUU
PUUU
IS OOISHI-SAN TRYING TO CONTACT ME...?
GYU (SQUEEZE)

Hello, Maebara-san? This is Kumagai from the Okinomiya Police.
I'm calling on behalf of Ooishi. If you can hear me, please cough.
ばっ
...WE HEARD YOUR EXCHANGE OVER THE WIRETAP.
HO (WHEW)
... Cough, cough!
I HAVE A VERY IMPORTANT MESSAGE FOR YOU. LISTEN CAREFULLY.
TCH. I HATE WIRE-TAPS.
I ask that you please refrain...
...from provoking Ryugu-san like that.

...Reina Ryugu warned us that she has set up a time bomb.
WHA ...!?
She made a timed detona- tor with a kitchen timer.
According to her note, it's set to go off at 7:00 p.m.
...IT'S 6:45...
...WE ONLY HAVE FIFTEEN MINUTES!
Ooishi is currently negotiating with Reina Ryugu for more time.
...i expect you can hear her...
...but Reina Ryugu is refusing to change the setting on the timer.
PLEASE HURRY, OOISHI- SAN!
NO, WE STAY ON SCHED- ULE!!

BUT WE DON'T HAVE MUCH TIME LEFT...
...SO WE HAVE A FAVOR TO ASK YOU.
WE ARE CURRENTLY PREPARING A TRANQUILIZER THAT WE WILL PASS OFF TO HER AS AN ANTIDOTE.
THAT RENA. SHE MADE A BOMB TOO...?
...She sincerely plans to kill herself and all of you with her in fifteen minutes.
!!
Maebara-san, we would like you to find the time bomb and disarm it.
...the kind that plugs into the wall.
We believe that the detonator is an alarm clock...
...WHAT DOES THE BOMB LOOK LIKE?
...THEY WANT ME TO STOP THE BOMB... AND THEY THINK I CAN DO THAT WITHOUT RENA FINDING OUT?

So it's probably somewhere else!
...NONE.
Are there any cords plugged into the outlets in the classroom?
It should be in a place filled with gasoline.
WHA...? BUT...
...and set up the timer there.
She must have doused another room in gasoline ...
...IN FIFTEEN MINUTES ...!?
YOU WANT ME TO CHECK THE WHOLE SCHOOL...

BUTSUN (CLICK)
SHE WAS POURING THE GASOLINE AROUND WHILE I WAS OUT IN THE YARD DELIVERING THE SCRAP-BOOK.
I DON'T THINK SHE WOULD HAVE HAD TIME TO DOUSE ANY-WHERE BUT THE CLASS-ROOM...
SO THEN WHERE THE HELL...
GU (CLENCH)
...IS THE TIME BOMB ...?
KEIICHI-SAN?
IS SOME-THING GOING ON?
SATOKO.
RIKA-CHAN...
KANA (CHIRP?)
KANA
KANA

SHE BEAT MION-SAN, AND NOW SHE'S GOING TO BLOW UP THE SCHOOL ...?
...I CAN'T BELIEVE RENA-SAN.
...A TIME BOMB...
...AND THAT'S IT.
I CAN'T THINK OF HER...
...AS MY FRIEND ANYMORE ...
PLEASE BELIEVE IN RENA.
RENA... JUST CAME DOWN WITH A VERY SAD DISEASE, THAT'S ALL.
THE REAL RENA IS THE KIND GIRL WE ALL KNOW AND LOVE.
SATOKO ...

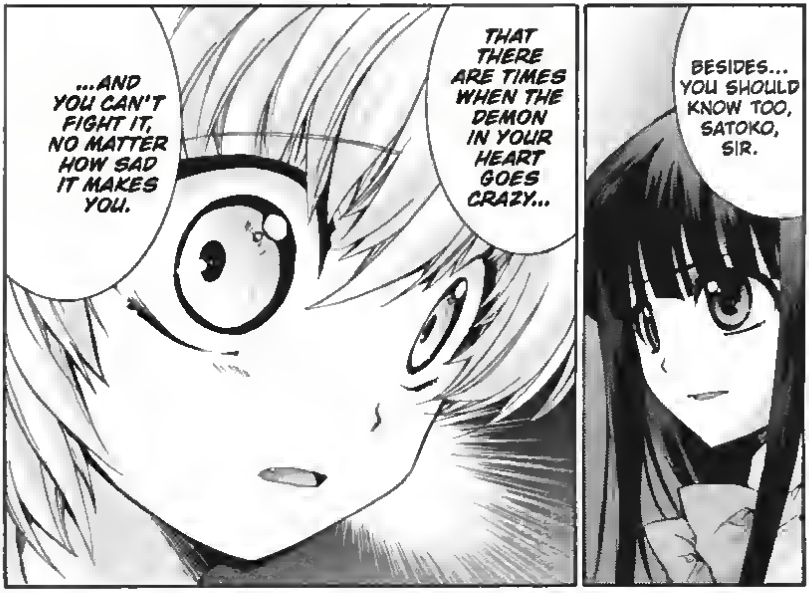
I KNOW THIS BECAUSE I WAS THE MAIN CHARACTER ...
...OF THE LAST TRAGEDY ONE WHERE I KILLED RENA AND [redacted]ION.
THE RENA WE SEE NOW IS JUST BEING MANIPULATED BY A DEVILISH SCRIPT SOMEONE WROTE.

KEIICHI...

EVERY DAY WAS REALLY FUN.
WE WOULD ALL HAVE CLUB TOGETHER AND PICK AT EACH OTHER'S LUNCHES.
...IT WAS JUST A LITTLE WHILE AGO.
...YOU REMEMBER, DON'T YOU, SATO-KO?

YOU HAVE TO REMEMBER RENA.
RENA, OUR CHEERFUL FRIEND, WHO WAS SO MUCH FUN TO BE AROUND.
... NGH ...
I'LL SAVE RENA, NO MATTER WHAT.
I'LL DO WHAT-EVER IT TAKES TO GET OUR FUN DAYS BACK.
SO, SATOKO ...
...TRUST ME. AND TRUST RENA.

RENA IS ONE OF OUR WONDERFUL FRIENDS, JUST LIKE EACH OF YOU.
SATOKO... I TRUST HER TOO, SIR.
... KEIICHI-SAN...


...AND YOU CAN'T FIGHT IT, NO MATTER HOW SAD IT MAKES YOU.
THAT THERE ARE TIMES WHEN THE DEMON IN YOUR HEART GOES CRAZY...
BESIDES... YOU SHOULD KNOW TOO, SATOKO, SIR.

.....
BUT MAYBE...
I DON'T KNOW WHAT THEY'RE TALKING ABOUT.
GU
CLENCH
... GUH ...

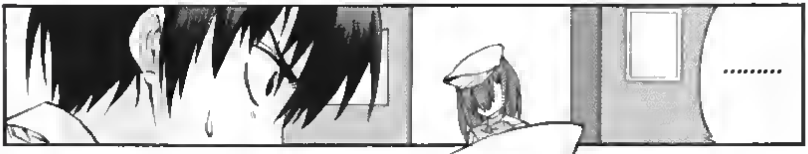
...ALL RIGHT.
...I'LL TRUST RENA-SAN TOO.
...OKAY.
...LET ME ASK THE WORLD'S GREATEST TRAP MASTER.
WHERE IS RENA'S TRAP...?

カナ カナ カナ・・・
KANA
KANA (CHIRP)
KANA

...DID YOU HEAR SOME-THING OUTSIDE?
RENA ...

...WERE YOU ALL GOOD BOYS AND GIRLS?
GARA (RATTLE)

YEAH. I KNOW I DID.
YOU HEARD SOME-THING? REALLY?


.....

...GO CHECK ON IT, KEIICHI-KUN.
TA (TMP)
TA
TA
TA
TA

NOW I JUST HAVE TO REMEMBER WHAT SATOKO SAID...
I MADE IT OUT INTO THE HALL!
...ALL RIGHT !!
AND THE TIME BOMB HAS TO BE PLUGGED INTO A WALL, YES?
AND IT'S SET UP SOMEWHERE THAT'S COVERED IN GASOLINE?
THOSE ARE OUR ONLY CLUES. AND I'M TIED UP HERE.
THIS IS A CRUELLY DIFFICULT GAME OF "FIND THE BOMB."
IT'S POSSIBLE SHE SET UP SOMETHING LAST NIGHT.
YESTERDAY RENA SAID SHE HAD TO GET THINGS READY FOR TOMOR-ROW.
BUT IT DOESN'T LOOK LIKE IT'S IN THIS ROOM.

I WANT YOU TO FIND IT, TO SAVE RENA, SIR.
IF ANYONE CAN DO IT, YOU CAN.
I'M BETTING EVERYTHING ON YOU, SATOKO.
IF YOU CAN'T FIND IT, THERE'S NO WAY I CAN.
.....
BUT THE WAY SHE IS NOW, THERE'S TOO MUCH STATIC. I CAN'T GET A READ ON HER.
IF WE WERE DEALING WITH THE NORMAL RENA, I COULD MAKE A SURE CALL.
...IF IT'S ON THE FIRST FLOOR, IT WOULD BE THERE. IF IT'S ON THE SECOND FLOOR, IT WOULD BE THERE...
CONSIDERING RENA-SAN'S BEHAVIOR PATTERN...

A CORD IN THE HALL...
...IF ONLY WE KNEW IF THERE WAS A CORD IN THE FIRST-FLOOR HALL...

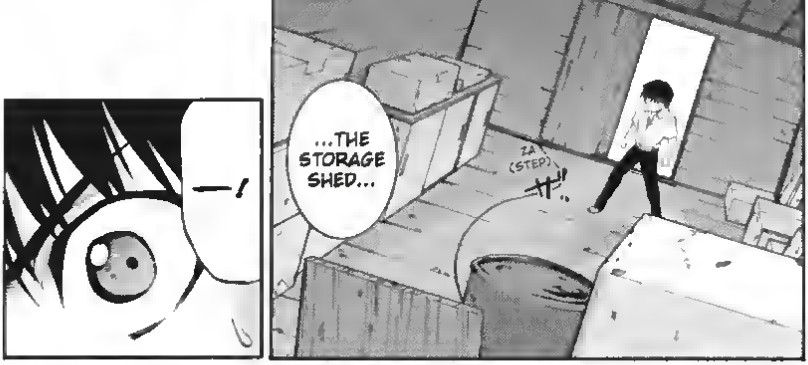
PETAN
PETAN (JUMP)

DAMMIT, THERE'S NO TIME!
WHERE IS THAT CORD?
WHERE IS IT!?

CORD... WHERE IS IT?

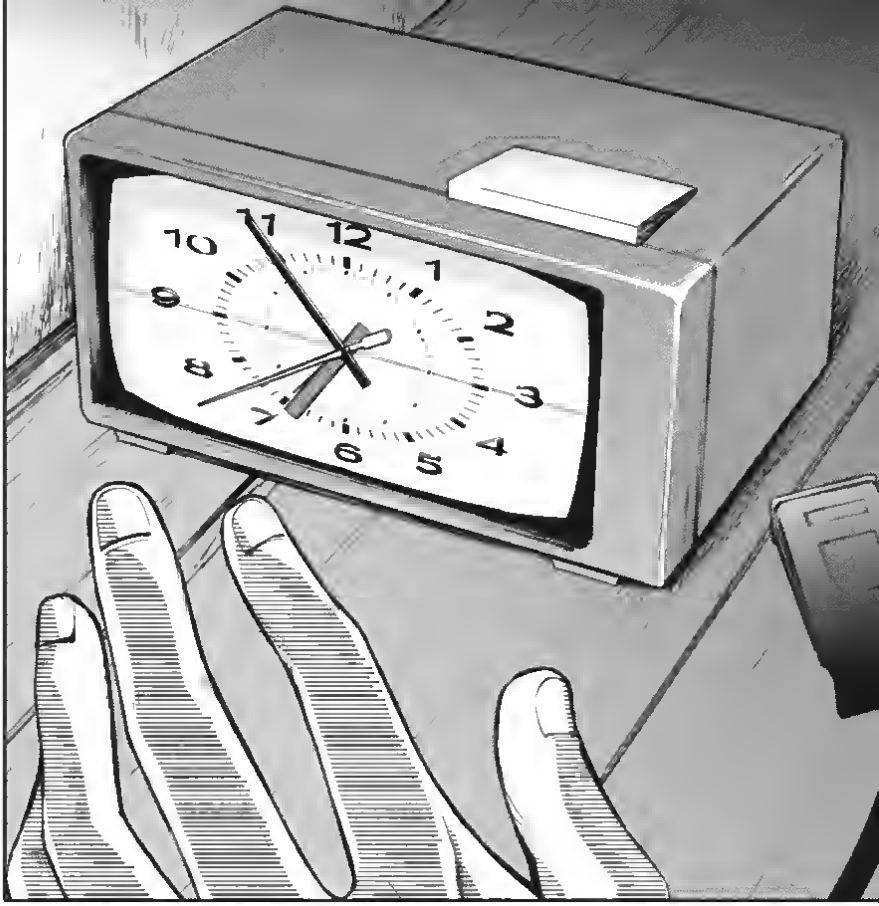
BUT I CAN'T AFFORD TO OVERLOOK ANYTHING.
IT'S POSSI-BLE THAT IT'S NOT ON THE FIRST FLOOR.

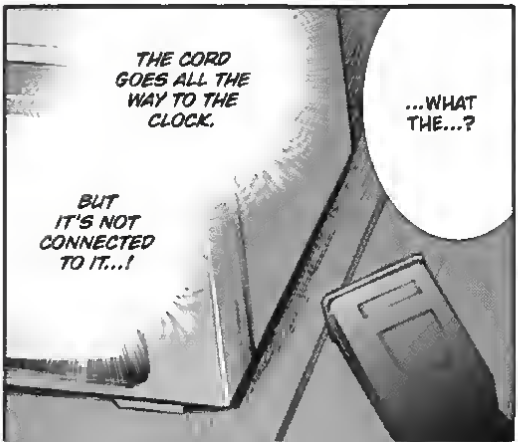
ガラ
GARA (RATTLE)
GOKU (GULP)
ゴク
...ALL RIGHT.
A CORD ALONG THE FLOOR...
AH...


—!
...THE STORAGE SHED...
ZA (STEP)

THERE IT IS!
THE DETONATOR ...!

...IF I CAN JUST UNPLUG THE CORD...!!
DA (DASH)
NOW I CAN STOP THE BOMB...


12
1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11


THE CORD GOES ALL THE WAY TO THE CLOCK.
BUT IT'S NOT CONNECTED TO IT...!
...WHAT THE...?

...EH...?

...IS THIS CORD DOING HERE?
SO WHAT...
IT DOESN'T NEED A CORD. IT RUNS ON BATTERIES...
THIS IS JUST A NORMAL ALARM CLOCK.
AND WHY...?
WHO PUT IT HERE?

GASP!
WE'VE BEEN TRICKED !!
KEIICHI-SAN! THAT'S NOT IT!
KEIICHI-KUN...?
WHAT ARE YOU DOING?

Higurashi
WHEN THEY CRY
ATONEMENT ARC

...HOLDING AN ALARM CLOCK, KEIICHI-KUN?
...WHY?
...WHY ARE YOU...
...UH...
...AH...
...WOULD BE STUPID ENOUGH TO PICK UP THIS ALARM CLOCK...
ONLY THE IDIOT THEY TOLD ABOUT IT...
ONLY THE PEOPLE ON THE OUTSIDE KNOW ABOUT THE BOMB.
THIS... IS A TRAP RENA SET...
...TO WEED OUT TRAITORS ...!

CHAPTER 15: LESS THAN 10 MINUTES

...THAT'S NOT NICE, KEIICHI-KUN.
AH-HA-HA-HA-HA-HA-HA-HA-HA-HA-HA-HA.
RENA!
スッ
SUU (RAISE)
W-
WAIT, RENA ...
UWAAAAHH!!
THE WIRE-TAP...!
AH...

GUSHA (CRUNCH)

THERE'S A PARASITE LIVING IN YOUR BRAIN, KEIICHI-KUN.
...DON'T DODGE ME.
SH-SHE TOOK AWAY MY ONLY WAY TO CONTACT ODISHI-SAN...

!!

SHE'S NOT HITTING WITH THE BACK OF THE BLADE. SHE'S NOT TURNING IT AROUND.
...IF SHE HITS ME LIKE THAT, I WON'T GET OFF WITH JUST A LITTLE SCRATCH.
I HAVE TO OPEN UP YOUR HEAD AND PULL IT OUT.

...
IT'LL BE INSTANT DEATH!!
WAAAH!!
AH HA HA HA HA HA HA HA HA HA HA!

!?
—!?
K... KEIICHI!
NOW, SIR! HURRY!

RIKA-CHAN ...!
GET THE LIGHTER! NOW...!!
OHH !!
GRAB!
...RRRAH!!!
GIRI
GIRI
GIRI
GIRI
DON'T THINK YOU CAN BEAT ME IN A BATTLE OF STRENGTH ...!

BASHI (GRAB)
GU (CLUTCH)
KH...!
RENA!! NOW YOU CAN'T BLOW UP THE CLASS-ROOM!
...I WON'T LET YOU GO.
DO (THUD)
ZA (STEP)
SA-TOKO !?
KEIICHI-SAAAAAN! I KNOW WHERE THE DETONA-TOR IS!

TCH. YOU'RE STILL TALKING ABOUT THAT STUFF ...!?
BUT IF RENA'S IN MY WAY, I WON'T MAKE IT.
I HAVE TO STOP THE TIME BOMB.
I WON'T LET YOU GET IN MY WAY!!
I WILL PROTECT HINAMIZAWA FROM THE ALIENS!
BA (BAM)
DAMMIT, WHAT DO I DO...!?
KEIICHI.
YOU GO TO SATOKO, SIR.

...
KEI-
ICHI.
S-STOP
BEING
STUPID!
RUN!!

...DON'T
YOU
REMEM-
BER,
SIR?
THIS
ISN'T
THE
FIRST
TIME.

EH...?

RIKA-
CHAN
...!!

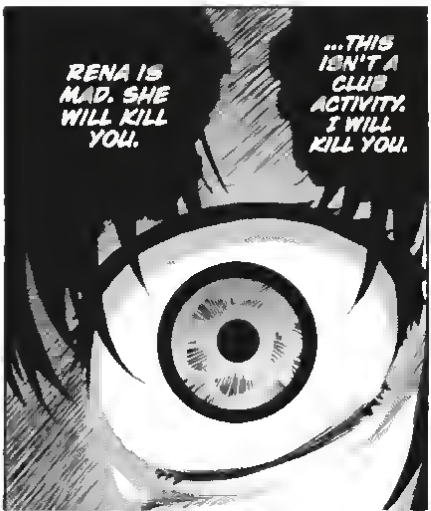
...THIS
TIME...
...YOU
WOULD
HAVE
MADE IT
IN TIME,
SIR.
...
BEFORE...
IF I HAD
ONLY TRIED
A LITTLE
HARDER
...

THIS TIME, I'LL MAKE SURE YOU MAKE IT...!
SO GO, SIR!

...I DON'T KNOW WHAT RIKA-CHAN IS TALKING ABOUT.
BUT I DO KNOW ONE THING.
GU (CLENCH)
RIKA-CHAN ...

...IN THAT CASE ...
IN THAT CASE, I...
ZA (STEP)
...RIKA-CHAN FEELS THE SAME WAY. SHE WANTS TO FIGHT...!
JUST LIKE I'M WILLING TO THROW AWAY MY LIFE TO SAVE MY FRIENDS ...

I'M COUNTING ON YOU, RIKA-CHAN!!
...I WILL RELY ON MY FRIENDS ...!!
DA (DASH)


RENA IS MAD. SHE WILL KILL YOU.
...THIS ISN'T A CLUB ACTIVITY. I WILL KILL YOU.

I'M IMPRESSED, RIKA-CHAN.
...YOU AREN'T AFRAID OF ME?

TA (MP)
TA
TA
TA
AAA?!

.....
RENA...
...DO YOU THINK THAT I FEAR DEATH?
I HAVE CROSSED A MOUNTAIN RANGE OF HUNDREDS OF DEATHS.
WHAT HAVE I TO FEAR NOW?

.....
...YOU'RE NOT RIKA-CHAN.
...RIKA FURUDE'S BODY IS YOUNG AND POWER-LESS.
BUT I ONLY NEED TO BUY ONE MINUTE OF TIME.
KATAN (CLATTER)

I'LL PLAY WITH YOU.
COME AND GET ME, CLEAVER GIRL...!
BUT-SUN (SNAP)
BUT-SUN

SUTSUN

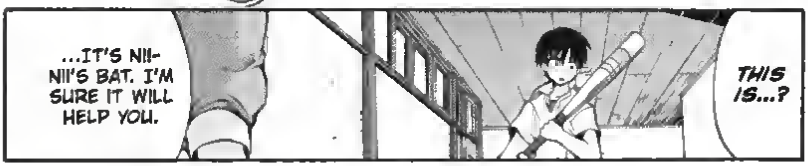
RIKA-CHAN UNTIED HER OWN ROPE!? WHOA...
LISTEN, KEIICHI-SAN!
WE GOT ALL THE HINTS WE NEED THIS MORNING!

BUT MAN, IT REEKS OF GASOLINE TODAY.
WE SMELLED GASOLINE ALL DAY.
OUR BALL'S GONE!
AND THE DISAPPEARING BALL...
RENA-SAN MUST HAVE BEEN PREPARING ALL NIGHT.
BASICALLY ...

SHE STOOD ON THE SECOND STORY ROOF...
...AND POURED THE GASOLINE INTO THE GUTTER!!
..RENA-SAN PLUGGED UP THE RAIN GUTTER WITH THE BALL!
...IF THE RAIN PIPE WERE TO EXPLODE ...
...AND THAT RAIN GUTTER GOES RIGHT BY THE CLASSROOM WINDOW.
...THE RAIN GUTTER IS FULL OF GAS ...!?
WHAT!? THEN ...
...IT WOULD START A CHAIN REACTION AND BLOW UP THE CLASSROOM ...!!

SO YOU'RE SAYING THE DETONATOR...
D... DAMMIT! THAT RENA... SHE'S GOOD...!
YES! IT'S ON THE ROOF ...!
GIRI (GRIT)
KH...!
TAKE THIS!
BUN (WHOOSH)
AH! KEIICHI-SAN!
DA (DASH)
I'M GOING TO THE ROOF!
SATOKO! TOMITA-KUN! OKAMURA-KUN! TAKE CARE OF THE CLASS!

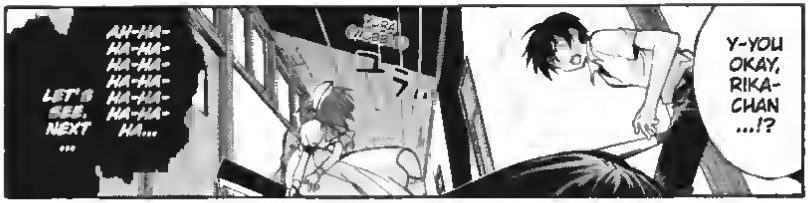
BASHI
(CATCH)


THIS IS...?
...IT'S NII-NII'S BAT. I'M SURE IT WILL HELP YOU.

I'LL BE EXPECTING YOU TO RETURN IT LATER!
I WILL! THANKS, SATOKO!
DASH!
(DASH)

...
YOU'RE JUST LIKE ME.
GU (CLENCH)
SA-TOKO'S BROTHER SATOSHI ...
...THE VICTIM OF LAST YEAR'S TRAGEDY...
WE'RE GONNA BUST UP THESE DEVILS' TRAGIC SCENARIO !!
WE WON'T LET THE TRAGEDY HAPPEN AGAIN!
LET'S GO, SATOSHI!
DA (DASH)
HURRY!
TMP
THERE'S NO TIME!
AH HA HA HA HA HA HA HA!!
BIKU (WINCE)

...DAMN, SIR...
IF ONLY THIS BODY WERE FIVE YEARS OLDER...


Y-YOU OKAY, RIKA-CHAN ...!?
AH-HA-HA-HA-HA-HA-HA-HA-HA-HA-HA...
LET'S SEE. NEXT ...

...IS YOU, KEI-ICHI-KUN !!
OWAAAAAAH!

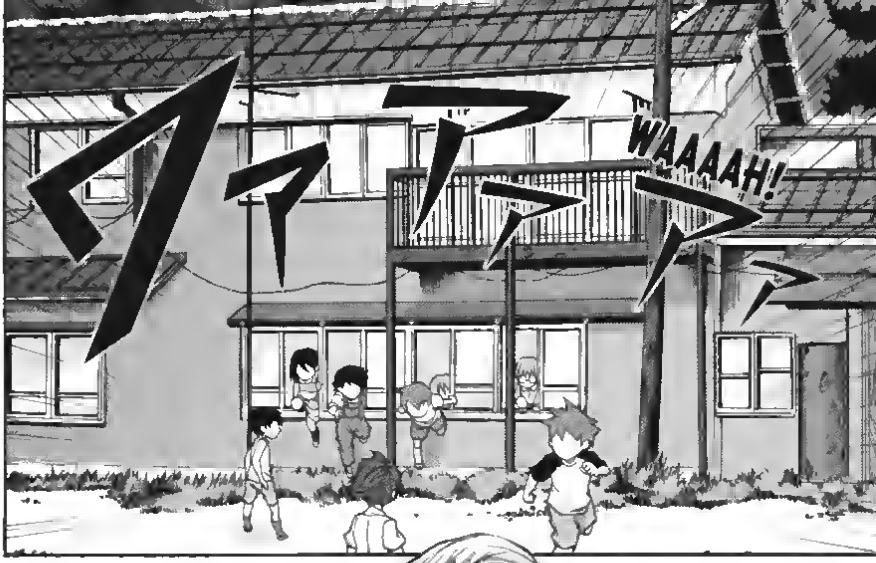
...I WON'T LET YOU!!
C-CRAP!
AH-HA-HA-HA-HA-HA! YOU'RE TRYING TO GET TO THE ROOF?
I'M SUR-PRISED YOU FIGURED IT OUT!!
BUT ...

ビィィィィィン
(TWANG)
OHH
!?
DO
(THUD)
WHA...
A
TRAP
!?
OH
HO
HO
...
YOU'VE
RAISED
YOUR
LEVEL
CONSID-
ERABLY.
TSK
TSK

BUT YOU'RE STILL THREE HUNDRED MILLION, FIVE THOUSAND LIGHT-YEARS TOO EARLY...
...TO GO UP AGAINST ME IN A CONTEST OF TRAPS!
THANKS, SATOKO !!
BUT LIGHT-YEARS ARE A MEASURE OF DIS-TANCE!
TA (TMP)
K-KKH...!
I WON'T LET YOU GO, KEIICHI-KUN!
GARA (RATTLE)
...NEXT, I HAVE TO HELP EVERYONE ELSE...!
ZA (STEP)
EVERY-ONE, RUN! NOW!

FORGET ABOUT ME!
IT'S NO GOOD! I CAN'T UNDO THE U-LOCK!
MION-SAN!
ALL YOU HAVE TO DO, PRESI-DENT ...
GA (CLUNK)
SA-TOKO ?
THAT'S NOT LIKE YOU, MION-SAN!
ISN'T THIS EXACTLY THE TIME YOU NEED TO BEHAVE LIKE A GOOD CLUB LEADER?
OH HO HO HO HO.
UWAH!? I-IT'S ALREADY OFF?
BACHIN (SNAP)
...IS GIVE ME THE ORDER TO UNDO THIS LOCK!

カナカナカナ...
KANA
KANA
KANA


WAAAAH!

THEY MANAGED TO GET AWAY FROM REINA RYUGU!?
THE HOSTAGES ...!

RUN WITH EVERY-THING YOU'VE GOT!
DON'T JUST STAND THERE!

TAKE THE CHILDREN INTO PROTEC-TIVE CUS-TODY!
ALL TEAMS!
DASH
DASH
F!!!

WE CAN SAVE THEM!
IT'LL BE CLOSE, BUT NOW WE CAN GET THEM OUT OF RANGE OF THE EXPLOSION.

FURA (STAGGER)
COME ON, MION-SAN! HURRY!
は、
HA (GASP)
DO (THUD)
MION-SAN !!

OOISHI-SAN!
ONE OF THE HOSTAGES IS INJURED ...!
!?

SHE CAN'T MOVE!
HELP THEM! HURRY !!

RRRRAAAAAAAAAAH!
THIRTY SEC-ONDS LEFT!
DAMMIT, THEY WON'T MAKE IT!
IS THIS THE END...!?

タッ!!
SORA HASAMA

KEI-CHAN ...!
KEIICHI-SAN! I BELIEVED YOU COULD DO IT!

TH-THANK GOOD-NESS. HE'S SAFE TOO!
MAE-BARA-SAN!

HURRY !!
KEIICHI, THERE'S NO TIME! IT'S GOING TO EXPLODE!

WHERE IS IT?
THERE SHOULD BE A DETONATOR NEAR THE RAIN GUTTER ...!
YOU HAVE FIFTEEN SEC-ONDS!
THERE'S NO TIME!
MAEBARA-SAN, HURRY!

FIFTEEN SECONDS.
TEN SECONDS.
FIVE SECONDS.
KEIICHI ...!
THERE'S AN ELECTRIC CORD.
THAT'S IT!

I WON'T LET THERE BE A TRAGEDY!
NO MATTER WHAT...
...I'LL STOP IT!!!
RRRR...
RRRRAAAAAAAAH!

I...
GASHAN (CRASH)
カ!!
ミシャン…

O-ODISHI-SAN! HE DID IT! HE DID IT!!!
YOU DID IT! M-MAE-BARA-SAN, YOU DID IT!
RAAAAH!
I DID IT!

HO (WHEW)
THAT WAS A LITTLE TOO MUCH SUSPENSE, KEIICHI-SAN!

...HEH HEH.
SOMEHOW, WE'RE SAVED...

THERE'S A FLOWERBED UNDER THE BUILDING! JUMP ONTO THAT!!
NOW PLEASE, MAEHARA-SAN, GET OUT OF THERE!
A FLOWER-BED?
I CAN'T REALLY SEE IT FROM HERE.
BESIDES.
THIS FIGHT ISN'T OVER.

IS IT, RENA?
(AH! (SCRATCH))
...

FINAL CHAPTER: HAPPY RENA

.....TCH
.....YOU'RE GOOD...

...HEY, KEI-ICHI-KUN...
...WE'VE... SETTLED IT NOW, RIGHT...?

...HEY, HEY. IT'S NOT OVER YET.
NOT UNTIL YOU LET THAT FALL.
...WHY?
...WHY DID THINGS TURN OUT LIKE THIS...?

...NOW IT'S ALL FAILED...
EVERYONE'S OUT OF THE CLASSROOM AND YOU CAN'T USE THE TIME BOMB ANY-MORE.
...GAME, SET, RENA!
...I RISKED THE LAST OF MY LIFE TO SAVE MANKIND FROM THE ALIENS...
...BUT YOU RUINED IT ALL, KEIICHI-KUN...
GIRI GIRI
H!

WHY AM I HOLDING A CLEAVER OVER KEIICHI-KUN?
...I DON'T UNDER-STAND ...
... RENA ...?
I DON'T EVEN KNOW WHAT I WAS SO AFRAID OF.
I DON'T KNOW WHY I WAS DOUBTING ALL OF YOU SO MUCH.
...HOW DID IT ALL TURN OUT LIKE THIS?
I CAN'T... BELIEVE MYSELF...

IF MANKIND IS DE-STROYED ...
...IT'S YOUR FAULT !!
BATA BATA BATA (FLUTTER)
...HEY, RENA. LISTEN UP.
...THEN I'LL DO THIS MY WAY!!
...TALKING WON'T SNAP RENA OUT OF IT NOW.
SU (SSK)

EVERY DAY WAS SO MUCH FUN.
...I WASN'T UNHAPPY. I WASN'T NERVOUS ABOUT ANYTHING.
SO WHY WOULD I DESTROY IT ALL ...?
I THOUGHT I TRUSTED YOU.
I LOVE YOU ALL.

あっはっ
AH HA!
はっ
HA!
PARASITES!? ALIENS!? ARE YOU STUPID?
はっ
HA!
MORON!

!?

YOU TRICKED RENA ...!
YOU... YOU NEVER BELIEVED ME!

HEAR ME LAUGH-ING? HA-HA-HA!!
WHO WOULD BELIEVE SOMETHING LIKE THAT THESE DAYS? WHAT A DORK
KATA
KATA (TREMBLE)
カタ
カタ...

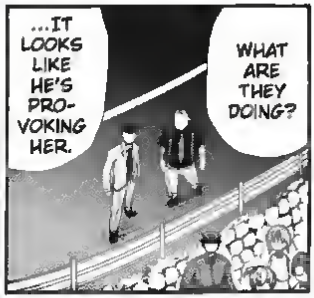
BUT I DID SUCH HORRIFYING THINGS TO YOU.
I COM-MITTED A TERRIBLE CRIME...
...YOU REALIZED IN THIS WORLD ...?
POTA
POTA (CRIP)
POTA
RENA... ...YOU...
BUT YOU...
...I DIDN'T REALIZE MY CRIME UNTIL AFTER I DIED.

...IF YOU STILL WANT TO GET ME TO BELIEVE YOU...
...BUT HEY, RENA...
IF I'M GOING TO BELIEVE IN SOMETHING CRAZY, THE TOKUGAWA TREASURE* SOUNDS WAY MORE FUN!

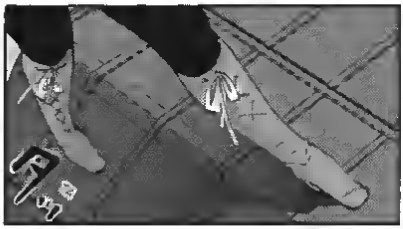
*THE TOKUGAWA TREASURE REFERS TO AN URBAN LEGEND THAT THE TOKUGAWA SHOGUNATE HID A VAST QUANTITY OF MONEY SOMEWHERE IN JAPAN. THERE HAVE BEEN MANY FAILED ATTEMPTS AT FINDING IT, AND TREASURE HUNTERS SEARCH FOR IT TO THIS DAY.

...THE WINNER IS ALWAYS RIGHT.
RIGHT
KU (FLICK)

KEIICHI-SAN, RENA-SAN ...!
K... KEI-CHAN ...?


...IT LOOKS LIKE HE'S PRO-VOKING HER.
WHAT ARE THEY DOING?

HE WOULDN'T ...!
WH... WHAT IS HE GOING TO DO ...?



RAH!
AAH!
RRRRR
AAAA

GAKIIN (KERSMACK)

M-MAE-BARA-SAN! RYUGU-SAN!
KYAAAA!

...BUT RENA...
IF YOU BEAT ME UP, THEN I'LL BELIEVE THE STORY ABOUT ALIENS.
I'LL DO A WEIRD DANCE TO SUMMON UFOs MORNING AND NIGHT, AND I'LL GO OUT TO THE CATTLE BARN TO MUTILATE SOME COWS.
GAKI
GAKI (CLACK)

KEN (KEIICHI)
...YOU'D BETTER BE READY FOR WHAT COMES NEXT!
...IF YOU LET ME BEAT THE CRAP OUT OF YOU...
I COULD NEVER LOSE...
...TO THE LIKES OF YOU, KEIICHI-KUN!!
I WON'T NEED TO AGREE TO ANY-THING! I WON'T!
AH HA HA HA HA HA!!

THAT WAS A STRONG ONE ...!
GH!!
COME ON, COME ON, COME ON, COME ON!!
I'M NOT PUSH-ING YOU BACK, AM I?
ガー
GAN
ガーッ
GAN
WE'RE EVENLY MATCHED IN POWER!
I SHOULD HAVE MORE ARM STRENGTH THAN SHE DOES.
BUT RENA IS SQUEEZING OUT EVERY OUNCE OF LATENT ABILITY SHE'S GOT!

THIS IS GOING BEYOND "I'M GONNA MAKE YOU CRY"...
I DON'T NEED TO HOLD BACK.

...AND INTO "THIS IS WAY TOO MUCH FUN"!!

I KNOW! AS MY REWARD FOR BEATING YOU TO A PULP...
OH YEAH WE HAVE TO DECIDE ON A PENALTY GAME!
I'M A MAN WHO POWERS UP IN DIRECT PROPORTION TO THE SIZE OF THE REWARD!

YOU'LL WAIT ON ME HAND AND FOOT!
FROM "GOOD MORNING" WHEN I WAKE UP ALL THE WAY TO "GOOD NIGHT" BEFORE I GO TO SLEEP!
...I'LL MAKE YOU MY PERSONAL MAID!
HISH! (WHIP)

I CAN'T WAIT TO SEE YOUR DIFFERENT OUTFITS EVERY DAY!
I'LL GET COACH TO HELP ME GET YOU A WHOLE WARDROBE OF MAID COSTUMES!

AH HA HA HA HA.
HEH HEH HEH...
.....
OH, WAIT! ALL THE WAY UNTIL "GOOD NIGHT"?
FORGET THAT—I'M NOT LETTING YOU SLEEP TONIGHT. GEH-HEH-HEH!

AH-HA-HA-HA-HA-HA! AHHH-HA-HA-HA-HA-HA-HA!
THAT'S SO LIKE YOU, KEIICHI-KUN!
WELL, I SAY NO THANK YOU!
INSTEAD, I'LL WIN AND PUT YOU IN THAT POSITION !!
SHAKI (SLASH)

IF I TRIP AND FALL, I COULD BREAK A BONE.
SPARKS FLYING LIKE CRAZY.
SO, DAM-MIT...
EVEN NOW, WE'RE FIGHTING TO THE DEATH.
CLANG CLANG
MAKING ME CRY AND MAKING ME SAD.
AND RENA'S BEEN SCARING THE HELL OUT OF ME ALL DAY TODAY—
...WHY IS THIS...
...SO MUCH FUN!!?

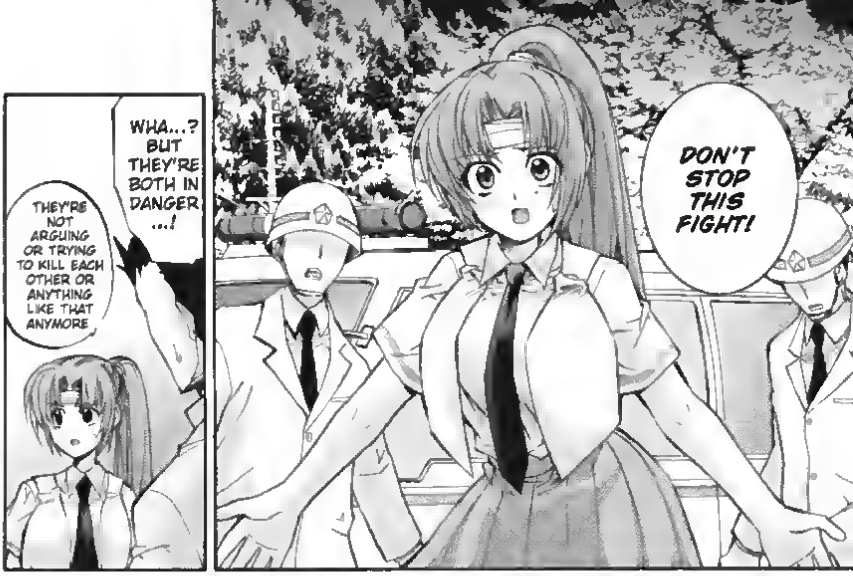
ZAAA (WHOOOSH)
MAE-BARA-SAN! THAT'S DANGER-OUS!
PLEASE JUMP DOWN!
ER, OOISHI-SAN?
...IT'S NO USE. ALL THE BLOOD'S GONE TO HIS HEAD. HE CAN'T HEAR ME.
WE HAVE TO HURRY AND GET HIM SOME HELP.
EH?
IT WAS JUST...KIND OF FASCI-NATING.
O-OH, I'M SORRY.
WHAT ARE YOU STARING INTO SPACE FOR!

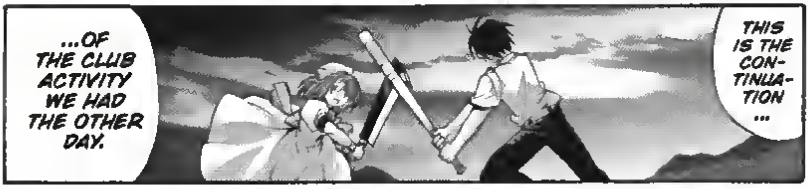
E... ENJOYING THEM-SELVES ...?
M-
...IT LOOKED LIKE THEY WERE EN-JOYING THEM-SELVES.
BE-CAUSE SOME-HOW...
KEIICHI-SAAAN !!
STAY IN THE CENTER OF THE ROOF!
RAAAAH!
MAEBARA-SAN, HANG IN THERE!!
... KEI-ICHI ...
RAAAH
KEI-CHAN...
PLEASE DON'T EN-COURAGE HIM!
USE ANY HEIGHT YOU CAN GET TO YOUR ADVAN-TAGE!!

MAE-BARA-SAN, GOOD LUCK!!
GO FOR IT! GET HER!
!!
...HEH! LISTEN TO 'EM CHEER!
...THE DAY WE HAD CLUB WITH THE WHOLE CLASS ...
...AND WE HAD A ONE-ON-ONE WATER GUN DUEL?
FIGHT-ING WITH EVERYONE WATCHING US LIKE THIS!
IT REMINDS ME OF OUR OTHER FIGHT!

BACK THEN WE WERE USING WATER GUNS, BUT IT WAS THE SAME THING!
ガン
ガン
ガーン
(GAN -CLANG)
SO YOU DO KNOW WHAT I'M TALKING ABOUT!
ACTUALLY, THERE'S SOME-THING I'VE BEEN THINKING ABOUT ALL THIS TIME TOO.
WHAT A CO-INCI-DENCE.
...BUT THE TRUTH IS, I'VE BEEN THINKING ABOUT IT ALL THIS TIME.
BA (BANG)
...WITH THE WATER GUNS, WE RAN OUT OF TIME, AND IT ENDED AS A TIE.
EVER SINCE THAT DAY, I'VE WANTED...

...TO FIGHT YOU AGAIN!
WAAAHH!
!?
STOP!
...I CAN'T LET THIS GO ON. I'M GOING TO HELP HIM!
THAT'S IT, MAE-BARA-SAN!


DON'T STOP THIS FIGHT!
WHA...? BUT THEY'RE BOTH IN DANGER ...!
THEY'RE NOT ARGUING OR TRYING TO KILL EACH OTHER OR ANYTHING LIKE THAT ANYMORE.


THIS IS THE CONTINUATION ...
...OF THE CLUB ACTIVITY WE HAD THE OTHER DAY.

C... CLUB ACTIVITY ...?
YOU TOO, RENA-SAN! FIGHT!
RAAAHH!
GOOD LUCK, RYUGU-SAN!
YOU'RE SO COOL! WHOO-HOO!

WH-WHAT'S GOING ON...?
THEY'RE CHEERING FOR REINA RYUGU-SAN ... AFTER SHE TOOK THEM HOSTAGE.
I TOLD YOU! THIS IS A CLUB ACTIVITY!
...WE DIDN'T ALWAYS GET EACH OTHER.
AND WE ALL WERE PULLED APART.
BUT MAYBE KEI-CHAN CAN...
...IM-POS-SIBLE ...
RAAAH!
...RENA'S MAD-NESS IS CHANG-ING...?
I'VE SEEN THE COLLAPSE OF THIS WORLD COUNT-LESS TIMES.
BUT ...
GU (CLENCH)

NO, NOT AGAINST RENA.
KEIICHI CAN WIN.
...I'VE NEVER... SEEN ANY-THING LIKE THIS...
...BUT...
KEIICHI CAN BEAT THIS SENSELESS MAZE OF TRAGEDY. THIS MAZE THAT HAS NO EXIT.
KEIICHI CAN BREAK THROUGH ITS WALLS...!
I KNEW YOU WERE THE BEST, KEIICHI-KUN!
AH-HA-HA-HA! HAAA-HA-HA!

YOU'RE THE ONE PERSON I DON'T WANT TO KILL!
A WORLD WITHOUT YOU WOULD REALLY BE BORING!!
HAA
HAA (HUFF)
HAA

HEH! THANKS! YOU'RE MAKING ME BLUSH !!
SO? WHAT ARE YOU GONNA DO?
ABOUT THAT "WORLD" THING!?
HAA
HAA

WEREN'T YOU POISONED? AREN'T YOU GONNA DIE!?
GO ON, SCRATCH AT YOUR NECK EVERY SO OFTEN!
DA (CRASH)

I DON'T CARE ABOUT THE THREE FAMILIES' CONSPIR-ACY!
ALIENS AND PARA-SITES JUST DON'T SEEM IM-PORTANT ANY-MORE!

AH-HA-HA-HA-HA!!! THAT'S RIGHT! I TOTALLY FORGOT!!
WHAT!? DON'T FORGET YOUR OWN MADE-UP DETAILS!
YOU'RE SUPPOSED TO BE ALMOST DEAD! YOU CAN'T BE ALIVE AND KICKING!

WHAT ABOUT YOU, KEIICHI-KUN? ARE YOU OKAY?
YOUR LEGS ARE LIKE STRAW!
HAA (HUFF)
...RRRAAH!
RRAAHHH!
DAMN IT ALL TO HELL !!
RRRRAAAH!

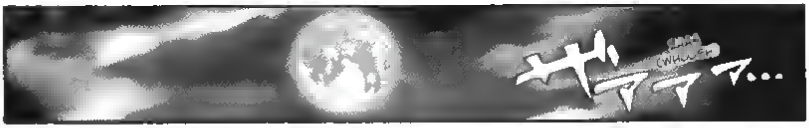
...BUT WE HAVE TO SETTLE THIS SOON...
I'M HAVING SO MUCH FUN I CAN'T STAND IT.

...IT WAS A TIE BE-FORE...
...BUT HOW WILL IT END THIS TIME?

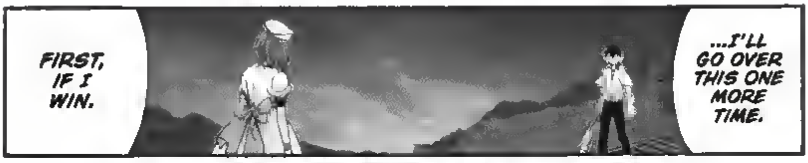
...RIGHT BEFORE WE SETTLED THE WATER GUN DUEL TOO.
I FELT THIS SAME LONELY FEEL-ING...

AH
DAN THUMP
I DUNNO.
...BUT THERE IS ONE THING I CAN SAY.

YEAH !!
I'VE NEVER HAD SO MUCH FUN!!


ゴゴゴゴ...

LET'S END THIS.
...WELL, LET'S BRING THIS TO A CLIMAX.


FIRST, IF I WIN.
...I'LL GO OVER THIS ONE MORE TIME.

YOU BECOME MY PERSONAL MAID AND SERVE ME HAND AND FOOT EVERY DAY!
AND WHEN WE'RE IN FRONT OF PEOPLE, YOU'LL MAKE SURE TO INTRODUCE ME AS YOUR MASTER!

HEH HEH! COUNT ON IT!
...SO NEXT ...
AH-HA-HA-HA-HA-HA. WOW. THAT SOUNDS KIND OF FUN!
AND OF COURSE, WE'LL HAVE THEM SPECIALLY MADE TO FIT YOU PERFECTLY. WON'T THAT BE GREAT?
...FROM THE CHARMING OLD-STYLE MAID OUTFITS TO SOMETHING A LITTLE MORE EXCITING!
UNDER COACH'S DIRECTION, WE'LL HAVE ALL KINDS OF OUTFITS MADE—

...IF YOU WIN.
...IF YOU WIN, RENA...
...THEN I'LL BELIEVE YOUR STORY.
I'LL BELIEVE THAT THERE ARE PARASITES IN OUR HEADS...
...THAT ALIENS ARE COMING TO INVADE THE EARTH...
...THAT THE SONOZAKI FAMILY IS WORKING IN THE SHADOWS, DOING SECRET RESEARCH ...
...AND THAT TOMORROW, ALIENS WILL CONTROL THE WORLD I'LL BELIEVE IT ALL.

...GH...
...EVEN IF THE POISON KILLS YOU...
...I'LL TAKE CARE OF YOU IN YOUR FINAL HOURS. SO DON'T WORRY.
KEIICHI-KUN'S PRIZE FOR WINNING SOUNDS A LOT BETTER.
...IT DOESN'T SOUND LIKE IT WOULD BE MUCH FUN FOR ME TO WIN.
KOTSUN (CLUNK)
コツン
OY... OKAY, WHAT DO YOU WANT IF YOU WIN?
...BOO, BOO! RENA DOESN'T GET ANY-THING GOOD FOR WINNING!
...I WANT ...
...THE SAME REWARD AS YOU, KEIICHI-KUN.
...YOU DON'T HAVE TO BE A MAID-SAN.

BUT I WANT YOU TO SAY GOOD MORNING TO ME TOMORROW.
AND SAY GOOD NIGHT TO ME AT NIGHT.
I WANT YOU TO BE REALLY NICE TO ME AND HELP ME HAVE A LOT OF FUN.
...HUH?
AH-HA-HA-HA-HA-HA-HA... IN THAT CASE...

...WHETHER I WIN OR WHETHER YOU WIN ...
...WE'LL ALWAYS BE TOGETHER, WON'T WE...?
.....
YEAH. WE'LL BE TOGETHER.
...HEY...
...ON SECOND THOUGHT, LET'S NOT DO THIS...
...BE-CAUSE WHETHER I WIN OR LOSE...
...THERE MIGHT NOT BE ANY REWARD...
.....
...RENA...

WE HAVE TO.
...WE FINALLY GOT TO HAVE THIS FIGHT. IF WE DON'T SETTLE IT...
...WE CAN'T PUT A CLEAN END TO IT...
WE HAVE TO SETTLE IT.
...DON'T WORRY. WE CLUB MEMBERS ARE INDESTRUCTIBLE.
...KEI-ICHI-KUN...
...SO THE NEXT TIME WE MEET...
...I KNOW WE'LL SEE EACH OTHER AGAIN.
EVEN IF ONE OF US DOES DIE...

...LAUGH TOGETHER LIKE NORMAL...
THE NEXT TIME, LET'S PLAY LIKE NOR-MAL...
...AND FALL IN LOVE LIKE NORMAL.
SIGNS: FRANKFURTERS / OKONOMIYAKI
WE'LL NEVER DOUBT EACH OTHER.
WE'LL TRUST EACH OTHER, NO MATTER WHAT.

YEAH.
...NO MAT-TER WHAT.
...WE'LL MEET AGAIN, NO MATTER WHAT?
NO MATTER WHAT, RIGHT ...?

...I HAD FUN.

.....
...ME TOO...

ギィイイ
@IIN
(KANG)

RENA IS STRONG, THROUGH AND THROUGH.
SHE NEVER LOSES HEART, SHE'S NEVER DISCOURAGED, SHE FIGHTS TO THE VERY END...

BUT RENA... I THINK SOMEDAY...
...YOU'LL BE ABLE TO REALIZE YOUR MISTAKE...
...IN THAT OTHER WORLD...
...EVEN UP UNTIL I DIED, I NEVER REALIZED MY CRIME.
...AND SHE BELIEVES TO THE VERY END.

...YOU REALIZED WITHOUT KILLING ANY OF YOUR FRIENDS.
THAT'S WHAT MAKES YOU SO AMAZING ...!
...AND I KILLED RINA MAMIYA AND TEPPEI HOJO.
...I DID COMMIT A CRIME.
I HURT MII-CHAN.
BUT ...
BUT I...
SFX: GU (CLENCH)
...YOU DON'T EVEN KNOW THAT?
...WHAT WAS THE BEST CHOICE ...?
I DON'T KNOW IF IT WAS RIGHT OR NOT ...
...BUT IT DEFINITELY WASN'T THE BEST CHOICE.
...MAYBE IT WASN'T RIGHT... TO KILL THEM...

TO GO TO YOUR FRIENDS!
EVEN IF THINGS ARE BAD OR YOU THINK YOU CAN'T TRUST THEM...
ぎゅっ
(grip)
...I KNOW THEY'LL ALL HELP.
RIKA-CHAN, SATOKO, MION— WE ALL CARE ABOUT YOU, RENA.
AND YOU CARE ABOUT US TOO, DON'T YOU...?

WHY DIDN'T I GO TO YOU...?
I WAS WRONG.
YEAH. I DO ...

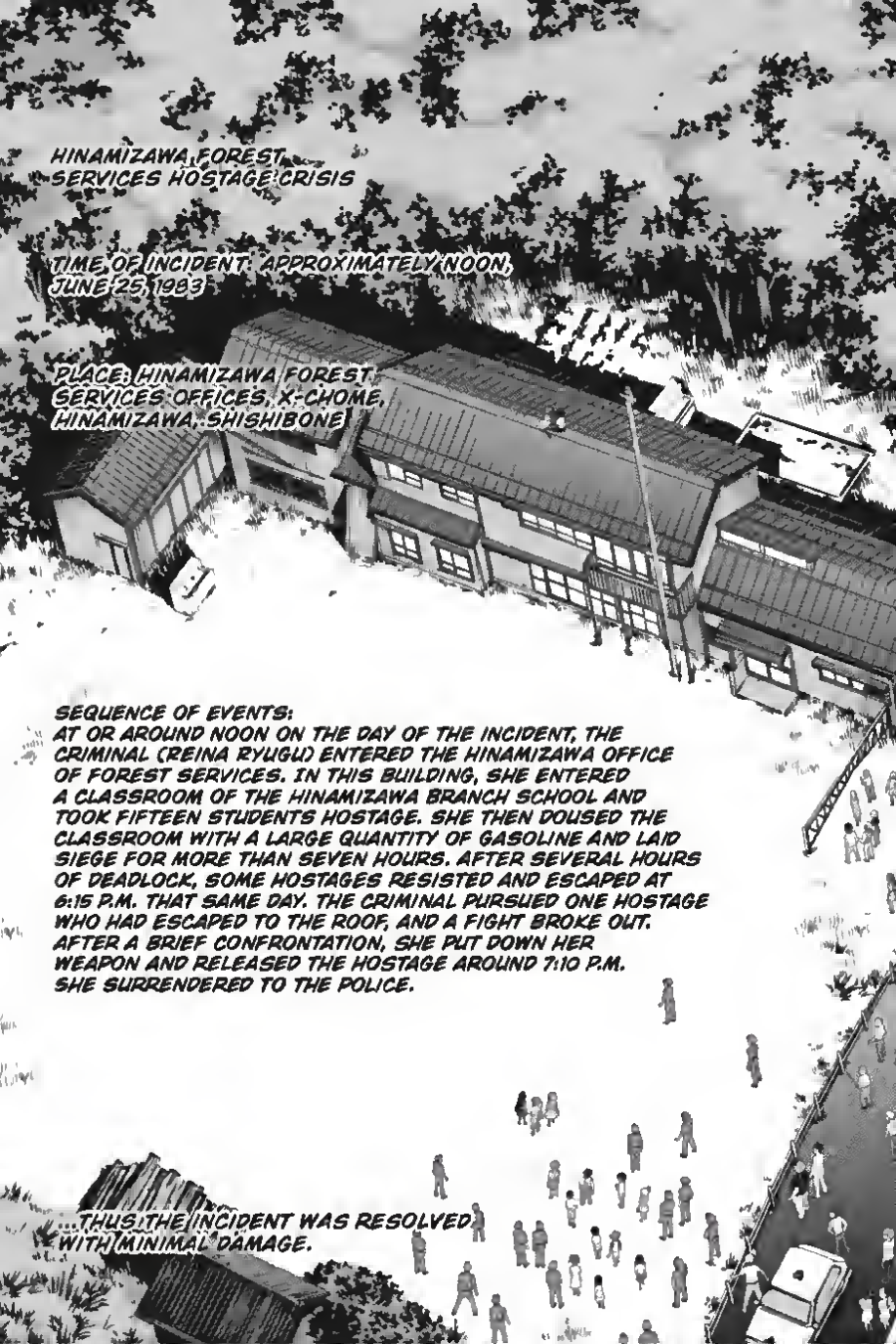
...I WAS THE SAME WAY ONCE.
SO I WON'T LAUGH.
I TRUST ALL OF YOU.
SO WHY DIDN'T I TRUST YOU...!?

...KEI-ICHI-KUN...
...NGH... NNNGH ...
IF YOU DO, THEN I KNOW...
...WE CAN HELP YOU!!
TRUST YOUR FRIENDS! RELY ON THEM!

UWAAA... AAAH...
IT'S SO STUPID TO AGONIZE OVER EVERY-THING ALL BY YOUR-SELF.
THAT'S WHY WE MADE MISTAKES AND COMMITTED CRIMES.
...BUT SHE DIDN'T GO TO THEM FOR HELP.
I DIDN'T GO TO MY FRIENDS "BACK THEN," EITHER.
RENA HAD FRIENDS THAT SHE COULD TRUST WITH ANYTHING ...

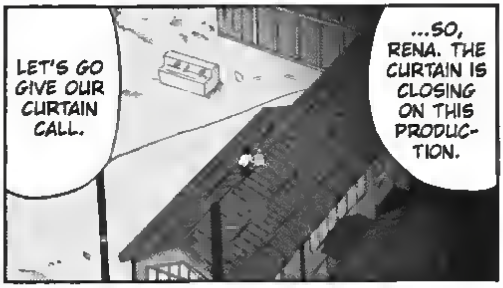
LET'S TRUST EACH OTHER.
LET'S TRUST OUR FRIENDS. LET'S NEVER DOUBT THEM AGAIN.
THEN NONE OF US WILL WIND UP THE MAIN CHARACTER OF A TRAGEDY.
AND HELP EACH OTHER.
AND WE'LL TELL EACH OTHER WHAT'S BOTHERING US.
...AND WE CAN OVERCOME ANY OBSTACLE TOGETHER...
OUR FRIENDS WILL ALWAYS BE HAPPY...

NN-FU-FU! THAT'S YOUTH FOR YOU.
IT'S BAD FOR MY HEART . .
WELL, I GUESS IT'S TIME TO WRAP UP THIS CASE
RAAAHH
...HONESTLY. YOU HAD ME SWEATING BULLETS.
...KEIICHI-SAN, I BELIEVED.
GU (CLENCH)
...THIS MUST BE A MIRACLE.
YOU JUST SHOWED ME...
...THAT YOU CAN OVERTURN THE PRE-ESTABLISHED ORDER WITH THE POWER OF YOUR WILL.
ZAAAAA (WHOOOOSH)


HINAMIZAWA FOREST SERVICES HOSTAGE CRISIS
TIME OF INCIDENT: APPROXIMATELY NOON, JUNE 25, 1983
PLACE: HINAMIZAWA FOREST SERVICES OFFICES, X-CHOME, HINAMIZAWA, SHISHIBONE
SEQUENCE OF EVENTS:
AT OR AROUND NOON ON THE DAY OF THE INCIDENT, THE CRIMINAL (REINA RYUGU) ENTERED THE HINAMIZAWA OFFICE OF FOREST SERVICES. IN THIS BUILDING, SHE ENTERED A CLASSROOM OF THE HINAMIZAWA BRANCH SCHOOL AND TOOK FIFTEEN STUDENTS HOSTAGE. SHE THEN DOUSED THE CLASSROOM WITH A LARGE QUANTITY OF GASOLINE AND LAID SIEGE FOR MORE THAN SEVEN HOURS. AFTER SEVERAL HOURS OF DEADLOCK, SOME HOSTAGES RESISTED AND ESCAPED AT 6:15 P.M. THAT SAME DAY. THE CRIMINAL PURSUED ONE HOSTAGE WHO HAD ESCAPED TO THE ROOF, AND A FIGHT BROKE OUT. AFTER A BRIEF CONFRONTATION, SHE PUT DOWN HER WEAPON AND RELEASED THE HOSTAGE AROUND 7:10 P.M. SHE SURRENDERED TO THE POLICE.
...THUS THE INCIDENT WAS RESOLVED WITH MINIMAL DAMAGE.

KANA (CHIRP)
KANA
KANA
カナカナカナ…

OH, I'M JUST TALKING TO MYSELF.
PLAY ALONG, JUST FOR ONE LAST LITTLE BIT.
WH-WHAT DO YOU MEAN, CURTAIN CALL? WHAT ...?


LET'S GO GIVE OUR CURTAIN CALL.
...SO, RENA. THE CURTAIN IS CLOSING ON THIS PRODUCTION.

SU (SSK)

KOKU (NOD)

IF THERE'S AN AUDI-ENCE DOWN IN HELL ...
...WATCHING ALL THIS UNFOLD, EXPECTING A TRAGEDY ...
...THEN I HAVE SOME-THING TO SAY TO THEM.

WE BEAT THE TRAGEDY !!
WE SHOWED YOU!! THIS IS OUR DECLARATION OF VICTORY!
...DON'T THINK WE'LL EVER GIVE IN TO IT AGAIN!!
NO MATTER WHAT TRAGEDY MIGHT BEFALL US...
SO WE'LL ALWAYS BE UNITED !!
WE WON'T DOUBT EACH OTHER EVER AGAIN!

WE DON'T CARE ABOUT YOUR TRAG-EDIES!
YOUR SAD ENDINGS HAVE NOTH-ING TO DO WITH US!
NO MATTER HOW MANY SCRIPTS YOU WRITE US...
...TO MAKE YOU DEVILS HAPPY ...
...WE'LL TAKE THEM ALL...

...AND TEAR 'EM TO SHREDS !!

ATONEMENT ARC

FIN

.....
.....
OH MY.
YOU'VE GONE AND TURNED THE PAGE.

HERE YOU FINALLY HAD A HAPPY ENDING.
AND NOW IT'S ALL RUINED.
...THERE ARE THINGS IN THIS WORLD BEST LEFT UNKNOWN.
HEE-HEE-HEE...

22 YEARS AFTER THE INCIDENT

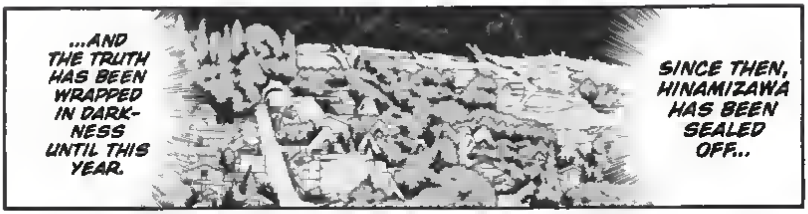
ゴロゴロゴロ…
(VERRRDOOOM)
HOW DOES IT FEEL, SEEING IT AGAIN AFTER SO LONG?
THERE REALLY ISN'T A SINGLE PERSON HERE.
YEAH. IT HAS BEEN A LONG TIME...
I FINALLY MADE IT BACK...
... RIKA-CHAN.
AKA-SAKA-SAN.

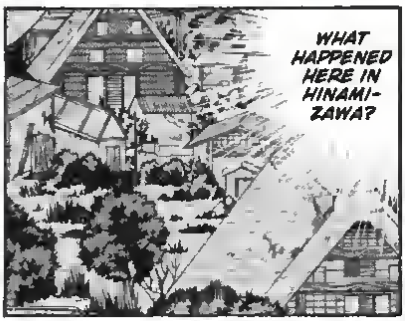
BACK TO HINA-MIZAWA.
SUMMER 2005, HINAMIZAWA
"THE DEVIL'S SCRIPT"

MIN
MIN
MIN
MIIIN
(BUZZ)
TWENTY-SEVEN YEARS AGO IN 1978...
...I VISITED HINAMI-ZAWA TO INVESTIGATE A CASE.
MY NAME IS MAMORU AKASAKA.
I'M A DETEC-TIVE FROM POLICE HEAD-QUAR-TERS.
AND I MET HER.
THE GIRL WHO PREDICTED HER OWN DEATH.
RIKA FURUDE.
...BUT I DIDN'T REALIZE IT.
SHE WAS ASKING FOR MY HELP...

AND JUST AS SHE PREDICTED ...
...SHE WAS BRUTALLY MURDERED.
THEN IMME-DIATELY AFTER...
...IT HAPPENED.

THE GREAT HINAMIZAWA DISASTER.
...TOOK THE LIVES OF TWO THOUSAND VILLAGERS ...
AN ERUPTION OF VOLCANIC GAS...


...AND THE TRUTH HAS BEEN WRAPPED IN DARK-NESS UNTIL THIS YEAR.
SINCE THEN, HINAMIZAWA HAS BEEN SEALED OFF...


WHAT HAPPENED HERE IN HINAMI-ZAWA?

WHAT DID RIKA FURUDE KNOW?

THAT'S WHAT I CAME TO FIND OUT.

...FOR FAILING TO SAVE RIKA FURUDE.
THIS IS THE ONLY WAY I CAN ATONE...
MIIN (BUZZZ)
MIIN
MIIN
MIIN
.....
IS THIS...?
YES.
ZA (STEP)

YES, THIS IS ONIGAFUCHI SWAMP.

I'D HEARD THE STORIES.
BUT WOW. THEY REALLY DID FILL IT WITH CONCRETE.
WELL, THIS IS WHERE THE VOLCANIC GAS ERUPTED FROM...
THE GAS THAT WIPED OUT HINAMI-ZAWA...

THEY DECIDED IT WAS EXTREMELY DANGER-OUS.
SO THEY FILLED IT UP DURING THE EARLY STAGES OF SEALING THE VILLAGE.
.....
AKA-SAKA-SAN.
?

AKASAKA-SAN, DO YOU REALLY ...
..STILL BELIEVE THAT THE SERIES OF MYSTERI-OUS DEATHS RIKA FURUDE PREDICTED ...
...IS RELATED TO THE GREAT HINAMIZAWA DISASTER?

...YES. OF COURSE I DO.
GU (CLENCH)
IT'S ALL CONNECTED.
AND THERE MUST BE SOME HIDDEN TRUTH THAT WILL EXPLAIN EVERYTHING ONCE WE UNCOVER IT.

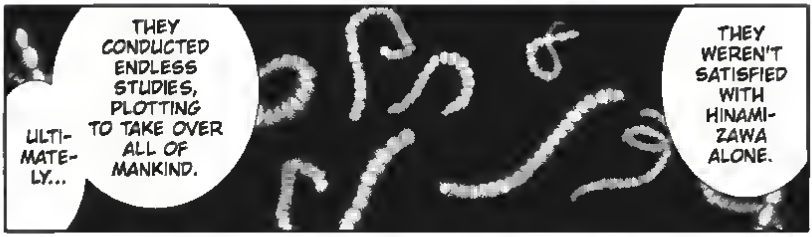
BUT ...
...EVEN IF SOMEONE WAS BEHIND THE ENTIRE SERIES OF DEATHS...
...THE HINAMI-ZAWA DISASTER WAS A NATURAL PHENOM-ENON.
DON'T YOU THINK IT'S A BIT OF A STRETCH TO CONNECT IT TO THE MYSTERIOUS DEATHS ...?
HEY, DON'T BE RUDE!
IT'S ALL RIGHT.

DON'T YOU THINK THERE'S SOMETHING ODD ABOUT IT?
EH?
...TAKE THIS CONCRETE.
BUT FOR EXAMPLE...
BUT GEOLOGICALLY SPEAKING, FILLING THE SWAMP WITH CONCRETE ISN'T GOING TO PREVENT THAT FROM HAPPENING AGAIN.
IT'S TRUE THAT POISONOUS GAS ERUPTED FROM HERE.
...THAT SOMEONE WANTED TO HIDE SOMETHING AT THE BOTTOM OF THIS SWAMP.
...IT MIGHT BE MORE NATURAL TO ASSUME...
HAVE YOU EVER HEARD OF ANYONE FILLING UP AN ACTIVE VOLCANO WITH CONCRETE?
W-WELL, NO, BUT...
RATHER...

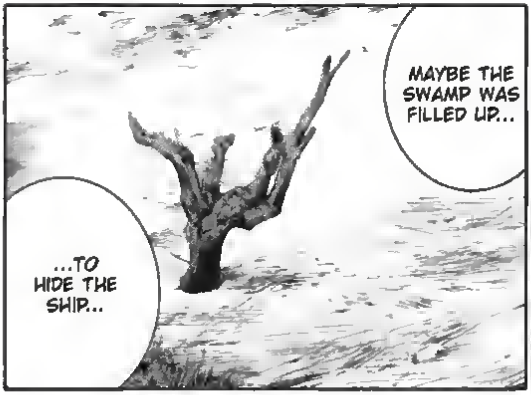
BUT THERE WAS SOMEONE WHO PREDICTED THAT DISASTER.
WHA ...?
THERE'S MORE. YOU SAID THE DISASTER WAS NATURAL.
THAT'S
SHE WAS A NURSE AT THE CLINIC IN HINAMIZAWA.
MIYO TAKANO.
AND ...
...RIGHT BEFORE THE DISASTER...
HER SCRAP-BOOK, ALSO KNOWN AS TEXT NO. 34...
...PREDICTED THE GREAT HINAMIZAWA DISASTER.

...HER BURNED CORPSE WAS DISCOVERED.
I THOUGHT IT WAS A GROUNDLESS URBAN LEGEND...
(KSS)
D-DOES THAT NOTEBOOK REALLY EXIST...!?
YOU CAN'T MEAN SHE WAS KILLED ...?
(CHILL)

THIS IS TEXT NO. 34.
THE ONE REINA RYUGU GAVE TO THE POLICE DURING HER SIEGE OF THE SCHOOL.
I FINALLY GOT IT THROUGH OOISHI-SAN'S CONNEC-TIONS.
IS IT... REAL?
YES. IT CLEARLY PREDICTS ...
...THE GREAT DISASTER THAT WOULD DESTROY HINAMIZAWA.
ACCORDING TO THIS NOTEBOOK, THE THREE FAMILIES OF HINAMIZAWA ...
...WERE CONTROLLED BY PARASITIC BACTERIA FROM SPACE.


THEY WEREN'T SATISFIED WITH HINAMI-ZAWA ALONE.
THEY CONDUCTED ENDLESS STUDIES, PLOTTING TO TAKE OVER ALL OF MANKIND.
ULTI-MATE-LY...

...THEY WOULD CREATE A DISASTER THAT WOULD DESTROY ALL OF HINAMIZAWA.
SO THE PREDICTION GOES.


MAYBE THE SWAMP WAS FILLED UP...
...TO HIDE THE SHIP...

...IS APPAR-ENTLY RIGHT HERE, AT THE BOTTOM OF ONIGAFUCHI SWAMP.
INCIDENTALLY, THE UFO THAT BROUGHT THEM HERE FROM SPACE...

UFO...?
A... ALIENS...
A, AKA-SAKA-SAN, YOU...
...BELIEVE THAT STORY...?
NO, OF COURSE I DON'T BELIEVE ALL OF IT.
...BUT THE OCCULT ENTHUSIASTS ARE HAVING SERIOUS DEBATES ABOUT IT.
PATAN (SHUT)
ACCORDING TO THEM, THERE ARE A LOT MORE...
...STRANGE THINGS ABOUT THE GREAT DISASTER.

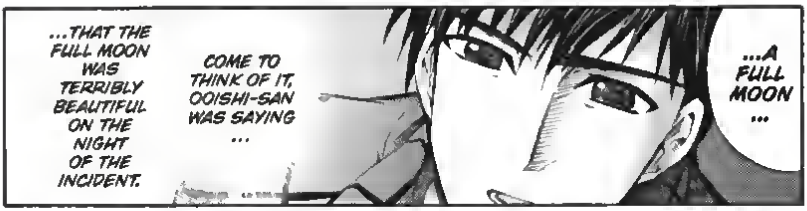
IF THERE WAS AN ERUPTION OF VOLCANIC GAS...
...THERE SHOULD HAVE BEEN SEVERE DAMAGE TO THE SURROUNDING ECOSYSTEM.
AND YET THERE'S NOT A TRACE OF ANYTHING LIKE THAT IN HINAMIZAWA.

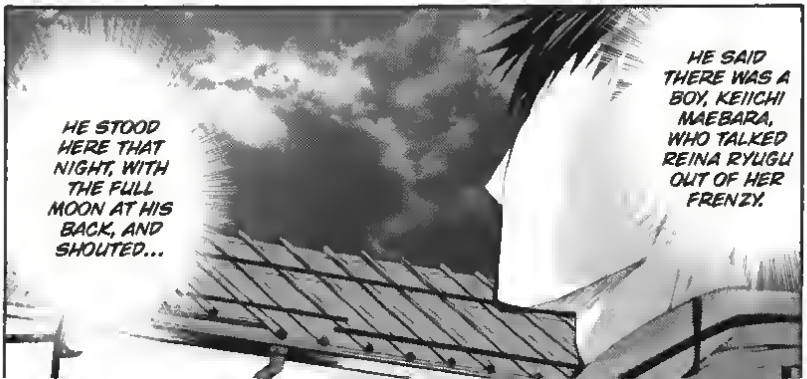
.....
...THIS WAS A BIOLOGICAL DISASTER CAUSED BY UNKNOWN BACTERIA, THEN IT MAKES SENSE.
BUT IF, AS PREDICTED IN TEXT NO. 34...
IF THIS WAS JUST A GAS ERUPTION, IT DOESN'T ADD UP.
THE METICULOUS SCREENINGS WERE PERFORMED OUT OF FEAR OF INFECTION.
THERE'S NO DAMAGE TO THE ECOSYSTEM BECAUSE THE BACTERIA ONLY INFECT HUMANS.
THE AREA WAS SEALED OFF FOR SO LONG IN ORDER TO ERADICATE THE GERMS.
ZA (STEP)

ALSO, DURING THAT TIME, THE MEMBERS OF THE DEFENSE FORCE IN CHARGE OF SEALING OFF HINAMIZAWA...
...HAD TO UNDERGO UNUSUALLY METICULOUS BLOOD SCREENINGS.
AND THE VILLAGE WAS SEALED OFF FOR TWENTY YEARS. THAT'S TOO LONG.
EVEN AFTER THE MIYAKEJIMA DISASTER, THE ISLAND WAS ONLY CLOSED OFF FOR FIVE OR SIX YEARS.
PARDON MY SAYING SO, BUT EVEN THAT TEXT NO. 34 COULD BE A FAKE!
YOU DON'T HAVE ANY PROOF!
SO IT WASN'T A GAS ERUPTION— IT WAS REALLY BIOTERRORISM...?
ZAA (WHOOSH)
BUT THERE ARE THINGS WE CAN BE SURE OF.
A LOT OF THINGS HAVE WEATHERED WITH TIME.
...THAT'S TRUE... IT'S BEEN TOO LONG SINCE THE DISASTER.

カナカナカナカナカナ…
KANA (CHIRP)
KANA
KANA
KANA
KANA
...AND BARRICADED HERSELF IN THIS SCHOOL.
THERE WAS A GIRL WHO BELIEVED IN TEXT NO. 34, MIYO TAKANO'S SCRAPBOOK...
SHE WARNED US OF THE ALIENS' BIOTERRORISM CONSPIRACY.
THE STORY IS STILL CLEARLY DOCUMENTED IN POLICE RECORDS.
REINA RYUGU.

...IN TEXT NO. 34 ...
THE GREAT DISASTER WAS FORE-TOLD...
...HINAMIZAWA WAS DESTROYED, JUST AS REINA RYUGU CLAIMED IT WOULD BE.
...AND LATE THE NEXT NIGHT...
カナ カナ カナ
KANA KANA KANA
I CANNOT IGNORE THIS FACT. SOME-THING GRAVELY IMPOR-TANT LIES HIDDEN WITHIN TEXT NO. 34.
THAT'S WHAT I THINK, ANYWAY.


...A FULL MOON ...
COME TO THINK OF IT, OOISHI-SAN WAS SAYING ...
...THAT THE FULL MOON WAS TERRIBLY BEAUTIFUL ON THE NIGHT OF THE INCIDENT.


HE SAID THERE WAS A BOY, KEIICHI MAEBARA, WHO TALKED REINA RYUGU OUT OF HER FRENZY.
HE STOOD HERE THAT NIGHT, WITH THE FULL MOON AT HIS BACK, AND SHOUTED...

YOUR SAD ENDINGS HAVE NOTHING TO DO WITH US!
WE DON'T CARE ABOUT YOUR TRAGEDIES!

...WE'LL TAKE THEM ALL...
...AND TEAR 'EM TO SHREDS !!!
NO MATTER HOW MANY SCRIPTS YOU WRITE US TO MAKE YOU DEVILS HAPPY...

ヒュウ!!
FYUUU (WHOOSH)

WHAT EXACTLY DID KEIICHI MAEBARA KNOW?
SCRIPTS THAT WOULD MAKE THE DEVILS HAPPY... WHAT WAS HE TALKING ABOUT?

...SE THAT VERY SCRIPT?
...THEN WOULDN'T THIS SCRAP-BOOK, WHICH CONTAINS THE WHOLE TRAGEDY...
...IF THERE REALLY IS SUCH A THING...
...AS A DEVIL'S SCENARIO ...
A DEVIL'S SCRIPT THAT CAUSED A SERIES OF MYSTERIOUS DEATHS OVER FIVE YEARS...
ZAAAA (WHOOSH)
...AND THEN TOOK THE LIVES OF THOUSANDS OF VILLAGERS IN A SINGLE NIGHT.

SOME-BODY WROTE THIS SCRIPT ...
...SOME-BODY PERFORMED IT...
...AND SOMEBODY WATCHED IT AND LAUGHED.
SOME-ONE...
IS THAT WHAT HE WAS SAYING ?
GIRI GIRI
IF SO, THEN WHO IN THE WORLD ARE THOSE PEOPLE?
SOMEONE PLEASE TELL ME...!!

JUST WHAT HAPPENED IN HINAMI-ZAWA...
...IN JUNE OF 1983 ...!?

WHAT IT MEANS TO CHALLENGE THE TRAGEDY, TO OPPOSE IT...

ORIGINAL STORY, SUPERVISOR: RYUKISHI07

ALL THE STORIES UNTIL NOW WERE ABOUT GETTING INVOLVED IN, AND HELPLESSLY FALLING PREY TO, TRAGEDIES THAT COULDN'T BE ANYTHING BUT INEVITABLE. AT LAST, THE MAIN CHARACTER SENDS UP A BEACON, ANNOUNCING HIS COUNTERATTACK AGAINST THE TRAGEDY...THAT IS THE IMAGE I HAD WHEN I CREATED THE "ATONEMENT ARC."

"CHALLENGING THE TRAGEDY" DOES NOT MEAN "FIGHTING THE TRAGEDIES THAT HAVE ALREADY HAPPENED." IT MEANS NOT CAUSING A TRAGEDY, OR RATHER, FIGHTING AGAINST THE IMPENDING TRAGEDY.

THINKING ABOUT IT, FROM THE "ABDUCTED BY DEMONS ARC" TO THE "CURSE KILLING ARC," THERE WAS ALWAYS A HASTY CONCLUSION CALLING FOR A VIOLENT SOLUTION, GETTING THE STORY LOST IN TRAGEDY...TO FIGHT AGAINST THE TRAGEDY MEANS NOT USING VIOLENT MEANS OF OPPOSITION, BUT TO OPPOSE THE VIOLENT MEANS THAT TURN THINGS INTO TRAGEDY.

IN THAT SENSE, MAYBE THE OPPOSITION TO THE TRAGEDY, WHERE KEIICHI AND RENA FACE OFF ON THE ROOF, WAS A FAILURE. MAYBE IT WOULD HAVE BEEN BEST TO TRY TO CLEAR UP THE MISUNDERSTANDINGS BEFORE RENA TOOK OVER THE SCHOOL...BUT FACED WITH AN INCIDENT THAT HAD ALREADY HAPPENED, KEIICHI THOUGHT ABOUT THE EVENTS AND CHALLENGED THEM IN THE BEST WAY HE KNEW HOW. AND IN THE VERY END, RENA WAS ABLE TO CHOOSE NOT TO LET THE CLEAVER FALL ON KEIICHI...AND MAYBE THAT IS KEIICHI AND RENA'S VICTORY AFTER OPPOSING THE TRAGEDY.

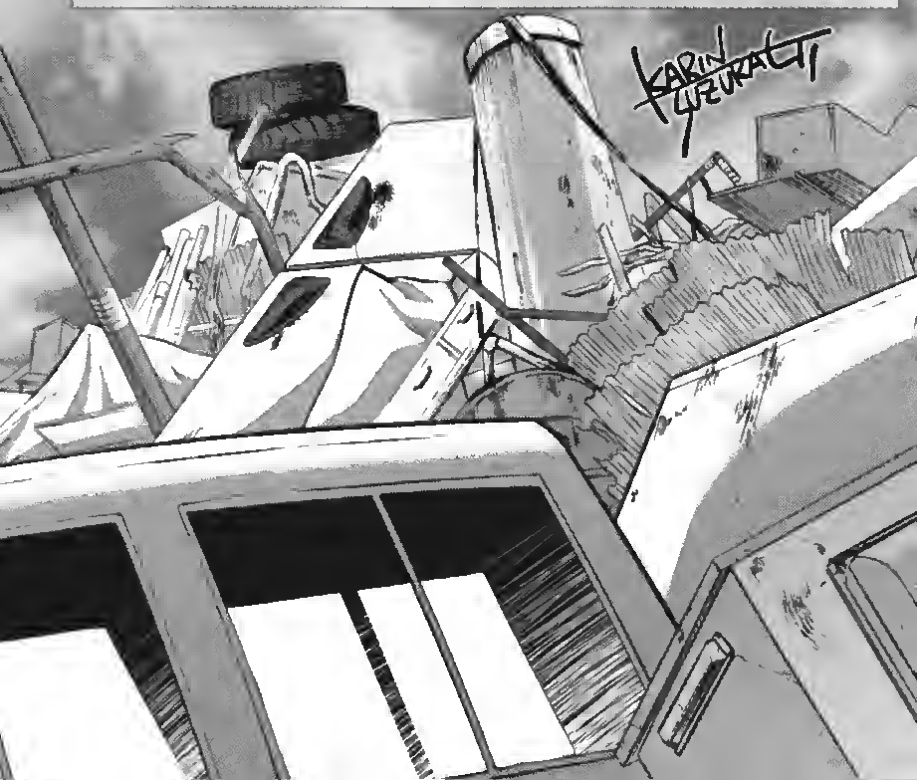
THAT'S EXACTLY WHY IN THAT LAST BATTLE ON THE ROOF, IF KEIICHI HAD DEFEATED RENA...IN THE CONTEXT OF THE STORY, THAT WOULD NOT HAVE BEEN A VICTORY.

TO CHALLENGE THE TRAGEDY. TO OPPOSE IT. THAT MEANS TO NOT LET A TRAGEDY HAPPEN. THAT IS THE KIND OF STORY THE "ATONEMENT ARC" IS.

THE "ATONEMENT ARC," WHICH COULD ALSO BE CALLED "THE TALE OF THE HARDEST RENA RYUGU HAS EVER WORKED IN HER LIFE," HAS MANAGED TO REACH ITS CONCLUSION IN VOLUME FOUR. IT'S BEEN A LONG, BUT SHORT TWO YEARS—THEY WERE OVER BEFORE I KNEW IT.

THOSE WHO HELPED ME AT THE BASIS OF THIS WORK, RYUKISHI07-SAMA, BT-SAMA, YATAZAKURA-SAMA, AND MY EDITORS, KOIZUMI-SAMA AND KOUNO-SAMA. MY STAFF: ERINA-SAMA, TASHIRO-SAMA, SHIGETOMO TANAKURA-SAMA, NAYU Y-SAMA, NIWAKO-SAMA, BANCHO-SAMA, TOMOKA FURUDA-SAMA, MOYOMOSO-SAMA, RICO-SAMA, YF-SAMA, YOSHUN-SAMA. AND EVERYONE WHO STUCK WITH ME THIS LONG. THANK YOU VERY MUCH.

THE MANGA VERSION OF *HIGURASHI WHEN THEY CRY* WILL CONTINUE WITH THE "MASSACRE ARC" AND THE "FESTIVAL ACCOMPANYING ARC." YOU MIGHT GET A PEEK AT SOME ACTION FROM THE MEMBERS OF THE *HIGURASHI* CAST WHO HAVEN'T HAD A CHANCE IN THE SPOTLIGHT YET AND AT THE OTHER SIDE OF THE *HIGURASHI* WORLD. IF YOU LIKE, PLEASE SEE IT THROUGH TO THE END.



HIGURASHI
WHEN THEY CRY
ATONEMENT ARC ④

RYUKISHI07
Karin Suzuragi

Translation: Alethea Nibley and Athena Nibley

Lettering: AndWorld Design

This book is a work of fiction. Names, characters, places, and incidents are the product of the author's imagination or are used fictitiously. Any resemblance to actual events, locales, or persons, living or dead, is coincidental.

Higurashi WHEN THEY CRY Atonement Arc, Vol. 4
©RYUKISHI07/07th Expansion ©2008 Karin Suzuragi/SQUARE ENIX CO., LTD. First published in Japan in 2008 by SQUARE ENIX CO., LTD. English translation rights arranged with SQUARE ENIX CO., LTD. and Hachette Book Group through Tuttle-Mori Agency, Inc.

Translation ©2012 by SQUARE ENIX CO., LTD.

All rights reserved. In accordance with the U.S. Copyright Act of 1976, the scanning, uploading, and electronic sharing of any part of this book without the permission of the publisher is unlawful piracy and theft of the author's intellectual property. If you would like to use material from the book (other than for review purposes), prior written permission must be obtained by contacting the publisher at permissions@hbgusa.com. Thank you for your support of the author's rights.

Yen Press
Hachette Book Group
237 Park Avenue, New York, NY 10017

www.HachetteBookGroup.com
www.YenPress.com

Yen Press is an imprint of Hachette Book Group, Inc. The Yen Press name and logo are trademarks of Hachette Book Group, Inc.

The publisher is not responsible for websites (or their content) that are not owned by the publisher.

First Yen Press ebook Edition: April 2014

ebook ISBN: 978-0-316-23776-5

App ISBN: 978-0-316-23872-4